黒丸

KUROMARU
TAKESHI NATSUHARA
PRESENTS

[原案]夏原武

クロサギ

THE BLACK SWINDER

戦慄の詐欺サスペンス

5

OOA還流資金詐欺

[原案]夏原武 黒丸

YS COMICS

小学館
YSC-2145

ISBN4-09-153145-8
C9979 ¥505E
9784091531452
1929979005054
定価：本体505円＋税
雑誌 45381-45 小学館

YS COMICS

THE BLACK SWINDLER

世に詐欺師、3種あり。
人を騙し金銭を毟り取る白鷺、異性の心と体を弄ぶ赤鷺、
そして、人は喰らわず白鷺と赤鷺のみを喰らう史上最凶の詐欺師――黒鷺。
父親が詐欺師に嵌められて起こした無理心中で唯一生き残った黒崎は、
この世の白鷺を喰い尽くすため、家族を破滅させた詐欺の計画を立てた張本人である
フィクサーと呼ばれる男から情報を買う、黒鷺となった。
“おまえだって、所詮はシロサギだろ…だから、おまえはおれが喰ってやる――”
国民的大反響！戦慄の詐欺サスペンス、第5弾!!

信じてる自分を…
まずは疑ってみるんだよ——

黒丸
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THE BLACK SWINDLER

第44話
宝石詐欺(前編)
■

第45話
宝石詐欺(中編)
■■

第46話
宝石詐欺(後編)
■■

第47話
ODA還流資金詐欺Ⅰ
■■

第48話
ODA還流資金詐欺Ⅱ
■■

第49話
ODA還流資金詐欺Ⅲ
■■■

第50話
ODA還流資金詐欺Ⅳ
■■■

第51話
ODA還流資金詐欺Ⅴ
■■■

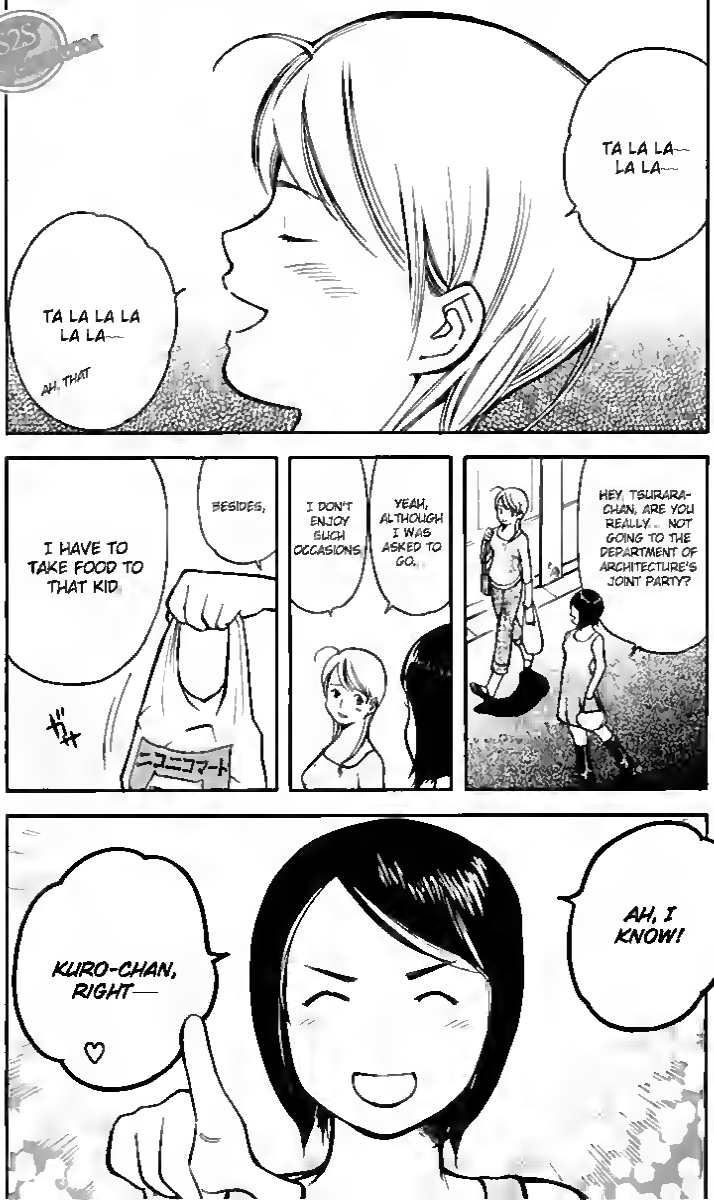
第52話
見本詐欺(前編)
■■■

第53話
見本詐欺(中編)
■■■

第54話
見本詐欺(後編)
■■■

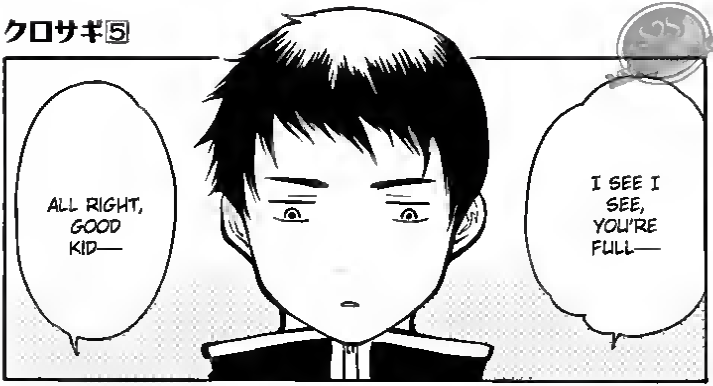
シロサギ・データ・ファイル
■■■

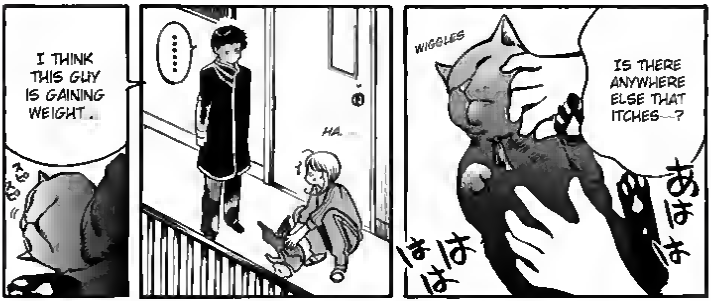
第44話 CHAPTER 44 GEM FRAUD (FRONT PART)

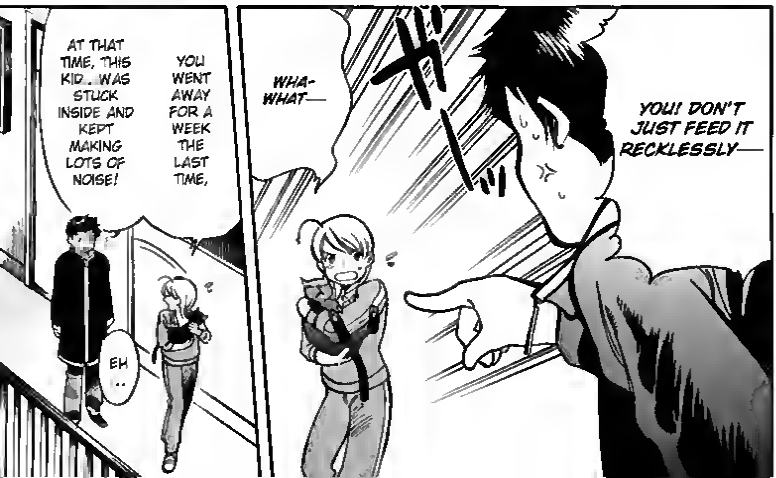

TA LA LA—
LA LA—
TA LA LA LA
LA LA—
AH, THAT
HEY TSURARA-CHAN, ARE YOU REALLY... NOT GOING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE'S JOINT PARTY?
YEAH, ALTHOUGH I WAS ASKED TO GO.
I DON'T ENJOY SUCH OCCASIONS.
BESIDES,
I HAVE TO TAKE FOOD TO THAT KID.
ガサ
ニコニコマート
AH, I KNOW!
KURO-CHAN, RIGHT—
♡

SEE YOU SAY HI TO KURO-CHAN FOR ME
IF THAT KID DOESN'T HAVE ME...
BUT...
LATELY, TSURARA-CHAN HASN'T CARED MUCH ABOUT ANYTHING BUT THAT
ガチャ
O-K, KURO-CHAN.
Kacha kacha
TA LA LA LA LA LA
TA LA LA LA LA LA
LOOKS—
YOUR MEAL—

Bi-
Birrrr
Birrr
birrrrr!!
EAT ALL OF IT.
GREAT TO HEAR YOUR VOICE BUT DO YOU REALIZE WHAT TIME IT IS?
...I'M NOT OPEN 24 HOURS
Negotiation Skills
LAW OF MANIPULATING OTHER'S WORDS
Bi
...YES.
.....
WOMEN
THE VICTIM IS A 22 YEAR-OLD. YOU CAN TALK TO HER AT 5 P.M. AT THE BOWL CAFE IN SHIN-JUKU...
GEMS
PUH
YOU CAN MEET WITH THE VICTIM IF YOU WANT.
A SHIROSAGI WHO WENT INTO HIDING AFTER SCAMMING GEMS.


I SEE I SEE, YOU'RE FULL—
ALL RIGHT, GOOD KID—

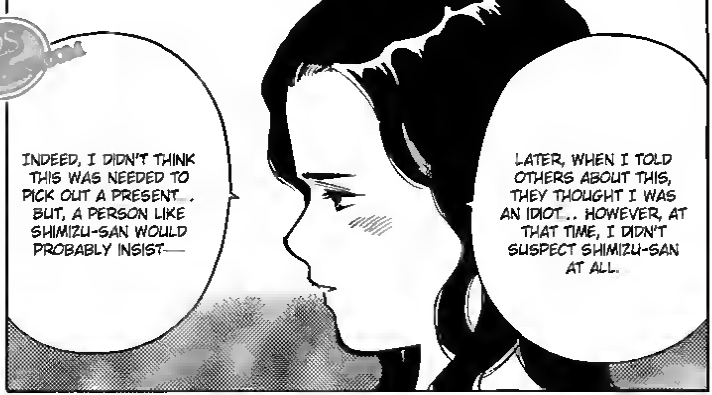

IS THERE ANYWHERE ELSE THAT ITCHES—?
WIGGLES
あはは
はは
HA...
I THINK THIS GUY IS GAINING WEIGHT.

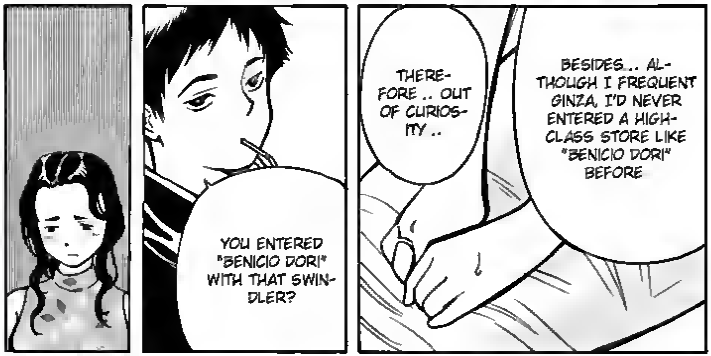

YOU! DON'T JUST FEED IT RECKLESSLY—
WHA- WHAT—
YOU WENT AWAY FOR A WEEK THE LAST TIME,
AT THAT TIME, THIS KID.. WAS STUCK INSIDE AND KEPT MAKING LOTS OF NOISE!
EH..

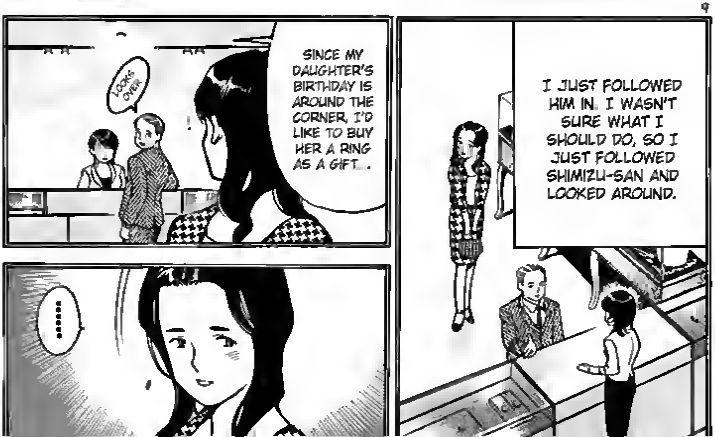
IF YOU WANT TO KEEP IT, AT LEAST LOOK AFTER IT PROPERLY!
.....
B-BUT ....
WHAT, STRAY CAT?
TO LOOK AFTER A STRAY CAT —?
AND YOU STILL HAVE TIME TO ENJOY YOUR YOUTH ... BUT YOU COME STRAIGHT HOME FROM UNIVERSITY,
YOU WENT THROUGH A LOT OF TROUBLE TO PAY OFF YOUR RENT, AND COULD FINALLY BREATHE A SIGH OF RELIEF,
YOU...
.....
SEE YA, I'VE GOT WORK TO DO—
BUT, THAT DOESN'T SUIT YOU
CAT FOOD ISN'T THAT CHEAP. I THINK YOU SHOULD PROBABLY USE YOUR MONEY ON CLOTHES AND MAKE-UP

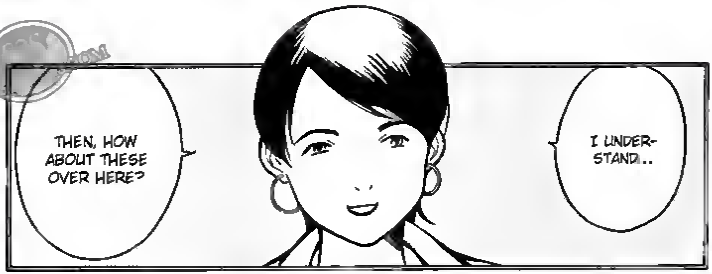
—THAT PERSON...
BESIDES BEING WELL-DRESSED, HE'S ALSO VERY AMIABLE,
HE GIVES THE IMPRESSION...
HAGA WOMEN'S COLLEGE 4TH YEAR EGUCHI MIKI
THAT HE'S AN IMPORTANT FIGURE OR A BIG BUSINESS OWNER
IT'S IMPO-SSIBLE,
THAT HE TURNED OUT TO BE A SWINDLER—?
THAT..
SOMEONE WHO GIVES THAT IM-PRESSION TO OTHERS WOULDN'T BE SUSPECTED OF DOING SUCH A THING.

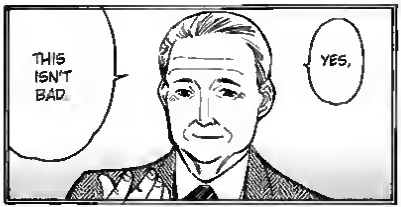
A "SHIMIZU-SAN".
EXCUSE ME, DO YOU HAVE A SECOND?
LAST MONTH AT GINZA, SOMEONE CALLED OUT TO ME
ON MY WAY HOME FROM UNIVERSITY, I'D GO TO GINZA.
THIS TIME, I'M THINKING OF GIVING HER A RING FOR HER BIRTHDAY
ACTUALLY, I HAVE A DAUGHTER WHO'S AROUND YOUR AGE.
OH.
I'D LIKE TO SURPRISE MY DAUGHTER, AND I'D ALSO LIKE TO LET HER TRY ON A RING. BUT I'M ALSO WARY OF THE STAFF WHO JUST TELL ME ALL THE RINGS ARE GREAT..
MAYBE WE COULD PICK ONE OUT TOGETHER?
I KNOW IT'S A LITTLE PRE-SUMPTUOUS, BUT

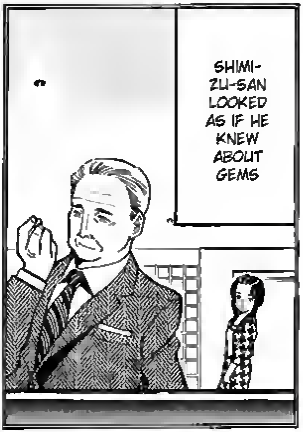

INDEED, I DIDN'T THINK THIS WAS NEEDED TO PICK OUT A PRESENT.. BUT, A PERSON LIKE SHIMIZU-SAN WOULD PROBABLY INSIST——
LATER, WHEN I TOLD OTHERS ABOUT THIS, THEY THOUGHT I WAS AN IDIOT.. HOWEVER, AT THAT TIME, I DIDN'T SUSPECT SHIMIZU-SAN AT ALL.

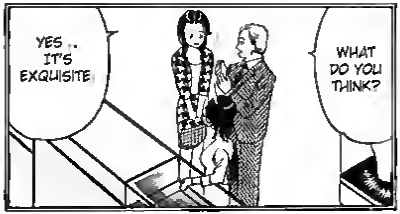

YOU ENTERED "BENICIO DORI" WITH THAT SWINDLER?
THEREFORE.. OUT OF CURIOSITY..
BESIDES.. ALTHOUGH I FREQUENT GINZA, I'D NEVER ENTERED A HIGH-CLASS STORE LIKE "BENICIO DORI" BEFORE


SINCE MY DAUGHTER'S BIRTHDAY IS AROUND THE CORNER, I'D LIKE TO BUY HER A RING AS A GIFT..
LOOKS OVER!
I JUST FOLLOWED HIM IN. I WASN'T SURE WHAT I SHOULD DO, SO I JUST FOLLOWED SHIMIZU-SAN AND LOOKED AROUND.
.....

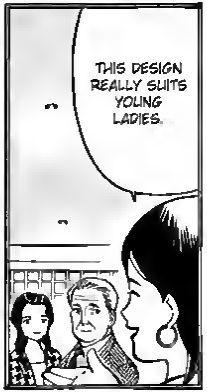

I UNDER-STAND..
THEN, HOW ABOUT THESE OVER HERE?


YES,
THIS ISN'T BAD.


SHIMI-ZU-SAN LOOKED AS IF HE KNEW ABOUT GEMS

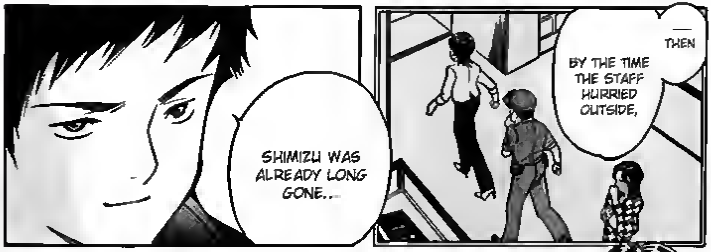

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
YES.. IT'S EXQUISITE

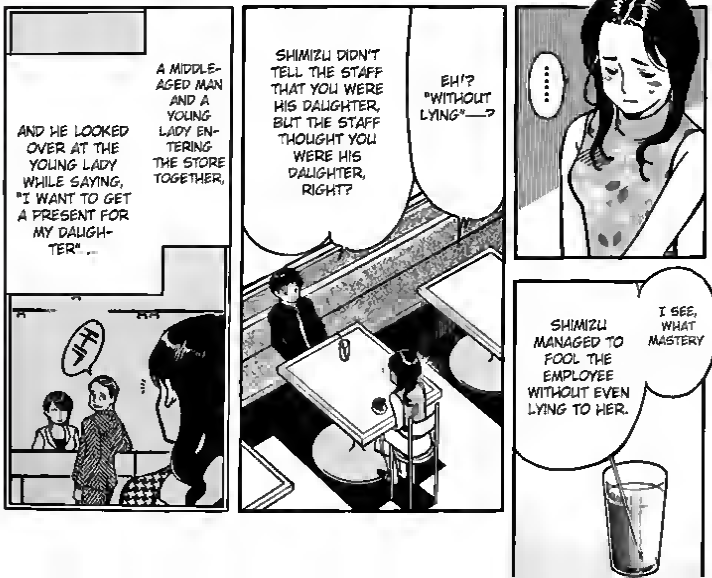
THEN, SHIMIZU-SAN SAID...
I'D LIKE TO LOOK AT THIS STONE UNDER THE SUN. IS THAT ALL RIGHT?


THIS DESIGN REALLY SUITS YOUNG LADIES.

SORRY, BUT COULD YOU WAIT HERE A BIT?
YES.
IS IT ALL RIGHT?
YES, IT'S FINE.
SHIMIZU-SAN WALKED OUT OF THE STORE WHILE LOOKING AT THE RING.
—AND THAT WAS IT.
THE STAFF PROBABLY DIDN'T THINK IT WAS NECESSARY TO CHECK ON HIM BECAUSE I WAS STILL IN THE STORE.
BUT THE STAFF STARTED QUESTIONING ME AFTER SHIMIZU-SAN HAD BEEN AWAY FOR A WHILE...
.....
YOUR FATHER IS LATE ..
EH?

IN A PANIC, I EXPLAINED... ABOUT HOW I HAD BEEN STOPPED ON THE WAY AND GIVEN SUCH A JOB.
I WAS SURPRISED!
THAT WAS WHEN I REALIZED THAT THE STAFF HAD MISTAKEN ME FOR "HIS DAUGHTER."


SHIMIZU WAS ALREADY LONG GONE...
—THEN
BY THE TIME THE STAFF HURRIED OUTSIDE,

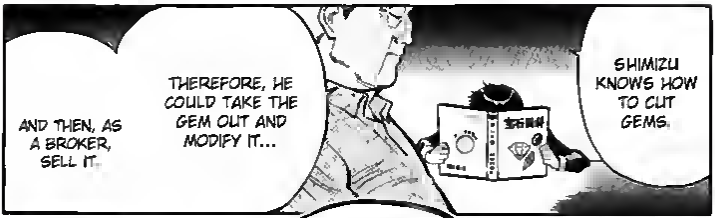

A MIDDLE-AGED MAN AND A YOUNG LADY ENTERING THE STORE TOGETHER,
AND HE LOOKED OVER AT THE YOUNG LADY WHILE SAYING, "I WANT TO GET A PRESENT FOR MY DAUGHTER"...
HM
SHIMIZU DIDN'T TELL THE STAFF THAT YOU WERE HIS DAUGHTER, BUT THE STAFF THOUGHT YOU WERE HIS DAUGHTER, RIGHT?
EH!? "WITHOUT LYING"—?
.....
I SEE, WHAT MASTERY
SHIMIZU MANAGED TO FOOL THE EMPLOYEE WITHOUT EVEN LYING TO HER.

BECAUSE SHIMIZU LOOKED OVER, YOU WOULD NATURALLY RESPOND TO HIM—
EVEN WITHOUT ASKING, THE STAFF OF A PRESTIGIOUS STORE WOULD UNDERSTAND
AFTER SEEING THAT, IT MAKES SENSE FOR THE STAFF TO THINK, "THAT'S HIS DAUGHTER."
MEANWHILE, THE STAFF WOULD JUST THINK, "OH, THE DAUGHTER HAS BEEN BROUGHT UP WELL"...
EVERY-THING WAS PLANNED
WHEN SHIMIZU SPOKE TO YOU, YOU WOULD REPLY IN YOUR NORMAL COURTEOUS WAY,
THE STAFF WOULD ALSO SEE THAT "YOU ACKNOWLEDGED HIM."
AS AN ACCOMPLICE ...
YOU WERE QUESTIONED BY THE POLICE?
THEN WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?
.....
.....

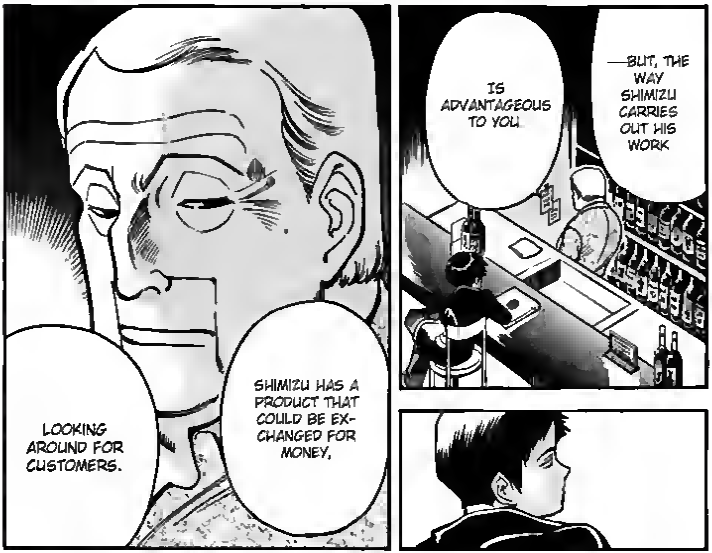
S2S
.....
INNO-
CENT
.....
THE POLICE SUSPECT THAT I'M WORKING WITH SHIMIZU-SAN
EVEN THOUGH I'VE TRIED TO EXPLAIN, THEY WON'T BELIEVE ME...
—IN THE END, I USED ALL MY SAVINGS AND THE MONEY MY PARENTS LENT ME TO PAY THE STORE.
ALTHOUGH I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND THE WHOLE SITUATION, IT'S TRUE THAT I'VE HELPED HIM INDIRECTLY.
AND I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT TO DO NOW...
B-BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE MONEY. I'LL GET IT BACK FOR YOU.
WELL, THIS INFORMATION IS WORTH THAT MUCH.
THREE MILLION YEN...
THREE MILLION YEN...
HOW MUCH?

YOU'RE REALLY NAIVE.
EXIST IN THIS WORLD...
SUCH HORRIBLE PEOPLE
UH... BECAUSE,
I'M IN TROUBLE...?
THEN, WHY DO YOU THINK I'M HELPING YOU GET THAT MONEY BACK?
BUT...
SEE,
YOU THINK EVERY SINGLE PERSON IS "A GOOD PERSON."

TITLE OF THE BOOK: ENCYCLOPEDIA OF GEMS



WELL, I'M NOT INTERESTED IN THE BACKGROUND OF A SWINDLER.
WHY BECOME A SWINDLER WHEN HE'S GOT SUCH SKILLS——
宝石百科


LOOKING AROUND FOR CUSTOMERS.
SHIMIZU HAS A PRODUCT THAT COULD BE EXCHANGED FOR MONEY,
IS ADVANTAGEOUS TO YOU.
——BUT, THE WAY SHIMIZU CARRIES OUT HIS WORK

Brr rr
Brr rr
THAT'S RIGHT
……

Brr rr
Brr rr
KACHA
—YES, HELLO?
PARDON ME FOR CALLING UNEXPECTEDLY. IS SHIMIZU-SAN AROUND?
..WHERE MIGHT YOU BE CALLING FROM?
I'M SOUMA, A WEDDING MANAGER FROM "WHITE LILY BRIDAL".
ACTUALLY, I HEARD ABOUT SHIMIZU-SAN FROM PEERS,
SO PLEASE EXCUSE ME FOR CALLING WITHOUT INTRODUCING MYSELF PROPERLY...
IF IT'S CONVENIENT FOR YOU, COULD WE MEET...
...I UNDERSTAND, THEN—

TOMORROW AFTERNOON AT TWO, IN THE LOBBY OF CLUB INTERNATIONAL HOTEL.
—— EXCUSE ME, ARE YOU SOUMA-SAN?
YES, I AM.
WELL THEN...

I AM SHIMIZU.
I APOLOGIZE FOR BEING LATE,
I'LL START WITH THIS GUY,
THE ONE WHO'S GIVING A RING AS A PRESENT...!!

Takeshi Natsuhara's Kurosagi ('the black swindler')

KUROSAGI CHAPTER 44
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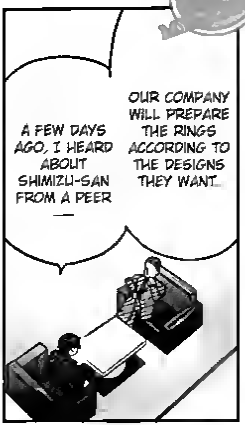
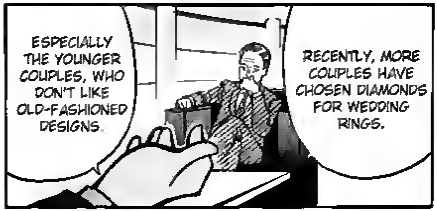
CLUB INTER-NATIONAL HOTEL——
THEN..
I'LL START WITH THIS GUY,
THE ONE GIVING THE RING AS A PRESENT...!!
HOW DO YOU DO, I'M SHIMIZU.
SHIMIZU-SAN! THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR COMING
WELL.
THEN, LET ME RE-INTRODUCE MYSELF——

"WHITE LILY BRIDAL" WEDDING MANAGE
SOUMA.
SOUMA TAKASHI
WEDDING MANAGER
WHITE LILY BRIDAL CO., LTD.
GEM FRAUD (MIDDLE PART)
I'VE HEARD OF WHITE LILY.
IT'S A BUDDING BRIDAL CHAIN STORE.

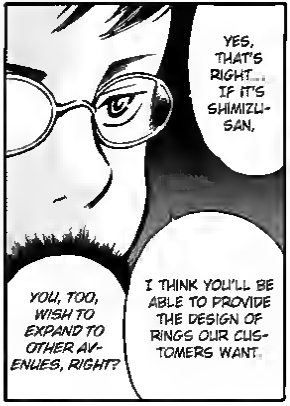
I'M ACTUALLY PRETTY YOUNG..
INDEED, A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE SAID THAT I LOOK YOUNG
YES, BECAUSE MINE IS A NEW COMPANY.
SOUMA-SAN IS MUCH YOUNGER THAN I'D IMAGINED.
—— WELL BUT,
S2S
FROM THE PLANNING TO THE WEDDING CEREMONY, WE PROVIDE TOTAL PLANNING SERVICES..
YES... ACTUALLY OUR COMPANY SPECIALIZES IN ORGANIZING WEDDINGS FOR YOUNG COUPLES.
THEN.. SOUMA-SAN
WHAT DO YOU WISH TO DISCUSS WITH ME?
INCLUDED IS THE OPTION OF PROVIDING WEDDING RINGS

I HEARD THE QUALITY OF THE GEM IS ALSO EXCELLENT
I HEARD YOU'VE GOT GREAT SENSE WHEN IT COMES TO RINGS, AND YOU SELL THEM AT A LOW PRICE...

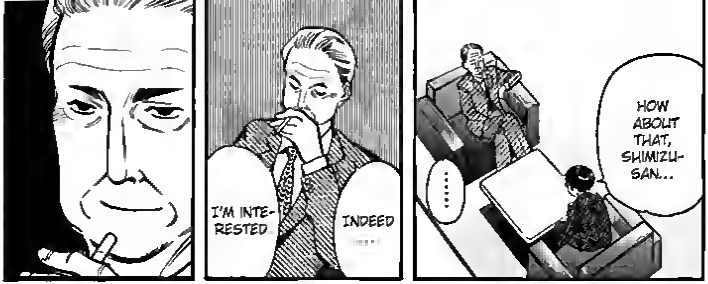

A FEW DAYS AGO, I HEARD ABOUT SHIMIZU-SAN FROM A PEER
—
OUR COMPANY WILL PREPARE THE RINGS ACCORDING TO THE DESIGNS THEY WANT.


ESPECIALLY THE YOUNGER COUPLES, WHO DON'T LIKE OLD-FASHIONED DESIGNS.
RECENTLY, MORE COUPLES HAVE CHOSEN DIAMONDS FOR WEDDING RINGS.

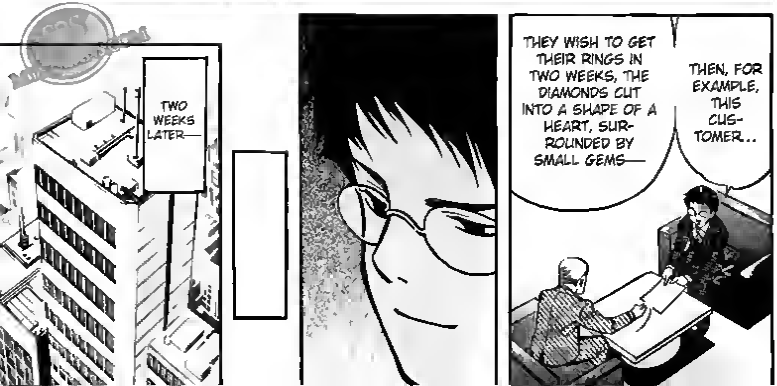
.....

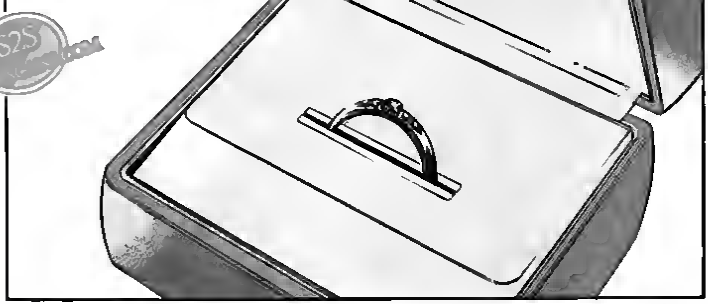

YES, THAT'S RIGHT... IF IT'S SHIMIZU-SAN,
I THINK YOU'LL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE THE DESIGN OF RINGS OUR CUSTOMERS WANT.
YOU, TOO, WISH TO EXPAND TO OTHER AVENUES, RIGHT?

I SEE!
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU WISH FOR ME TO PROVIDE THE RINGS?


HOW ABOUT THAT, SHIMIZU-SAN...
.....
INDEED....
I'M INTERESTED

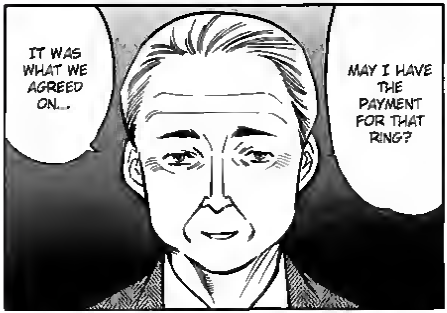
ALL RIGHT THEN, I'D LIKE TO HEAR MORE ABOUT IT.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

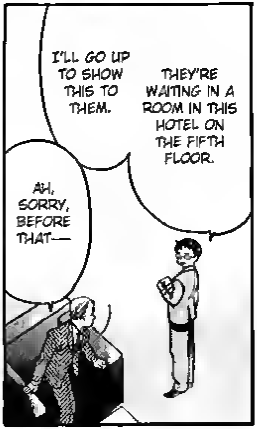

THEN, FOR EXAMPLE, THIS CUSTOMER...
THEY WISH TO GET THEIR RINGS IN TWO WEEKS, THE DIAMONDS CUT INTO A SHAPE OF A HEART, SURROUNDED BY SMALL GEMS—
TWO WEEKS LATER—



A PLATINUM RING WITH A HEART-SHAPED DIAMOND SURROUNDED BY SMALL PINK DIAMONDS ..
IT'S THE DESIGN THE CUSTOMER WANTED!

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
IT'S MAGNIFICENT——!!


MAY I HAVE THE PAYMENT FOR THAT RING?
IT WAS WHAT WE AGREED ON...


THEY'RE WAITING IN A ROOM IN THIS HOTEL ON THE FIFTH FLOOR.
I'LL GO UP TO SHOW THIS TO THEM.
AH, SORRY, BEFORE THAT——

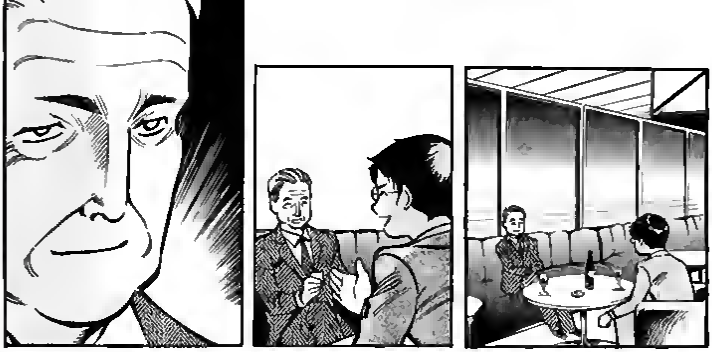
AH. .
THAT'S RIGHT.

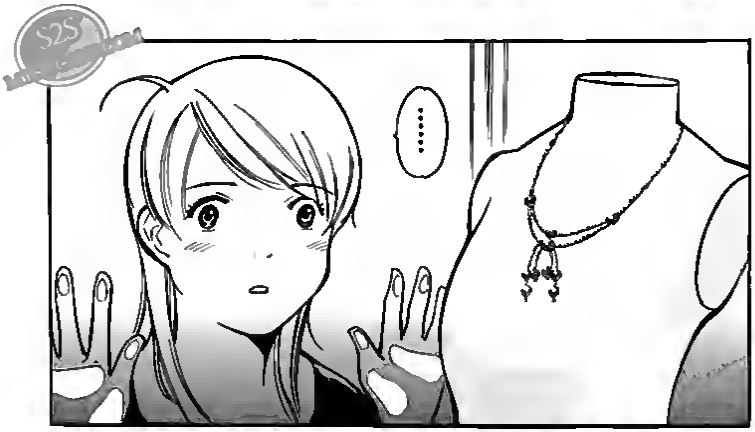
THAT'S RIGHT.
THEN, PLEASE CHECK...
1.1 MILLION YEN!!
SORRY BUT, SHIMIZU-SAN,
COULD YOU PLEASE WAIT HERE?
THEN, I'LL GO UP TO MEET THE CUSTOMER..
WHY?

ACTUALLY, THAT... FRANKLY,
I'M AFRAID THAT IF THEY ASKED ABOUT THE PRICE, THEN...
Ching
EXCUSE ME
I UNDERSTAND. I'LL WAIT HERE.
!!
HAHAA... I SEE!
I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH HE'D MARK UP MY SELLING PRICE TO SELL IT TO HIS CUSTOMERS.
EVEN IF IT'S THE MOST POPULAR BRIDAL CHAIN STORE AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE, HE'S STILL GOT TO PUT IN SOME EFFORT.
HOWEVER, THIS JOB ISN'T BAD... I CAN SELL THE PRODUCT REGULARLY.
FROM HERE ON, I'LL FOCUS ON DIAMONDS AND SELL THEM ONE AFTER ANOTHER.

Ka-cha
Pon
Busun
PHEW
Ka-cha
ABOUT 15 MIN-UTES WILL DO ..
OH
Bi Bi Bi Bi Bi Bi
Zudo dodo
Piko Piko Doksun
.....

IT'S TIME.
CHING
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WAIT, SHIMIZU-SAN!
THE CUSTOMERS LIKED IT SO MUCH THEY BOUGHT IT!
EVERY-THING IS JUST WHAT THEY WISHED FOR.
THAT'S GREAT!
I'LL BE LOOKING FOR-WARD TO YOUR ASSIS-TANCE FROM NOW ON. THERE'S A LOUNGE ON THE TOP FLOOR. LET'S DISCUSS OUR FUTURE PLANS THERE—
SURE!




S25
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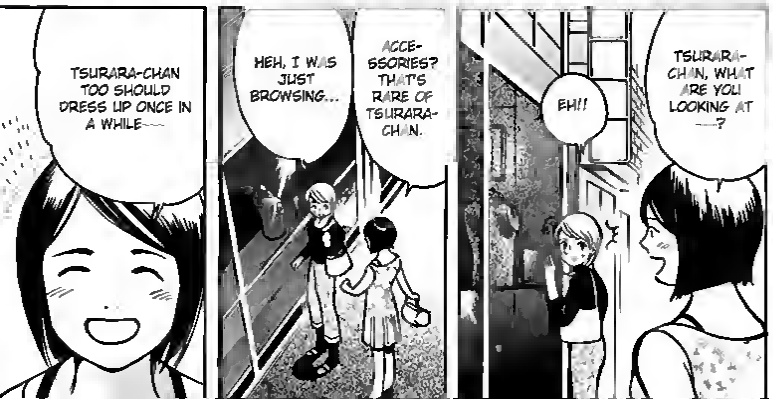
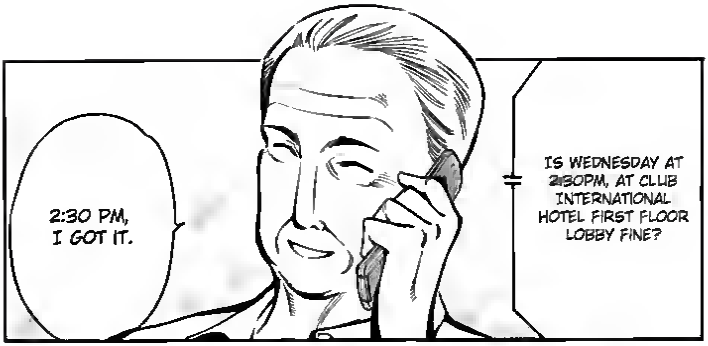

TSURARA-CHAN, WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT ——?
EH!!
ACCE-SSORIES? THAT'S RARE OF TSURARA-CHAN.
HEH, I WAS JUST BROWSING...
TSURARA-CHAN TOO SHOULD DRESS UP ONCE IN A WHILE——

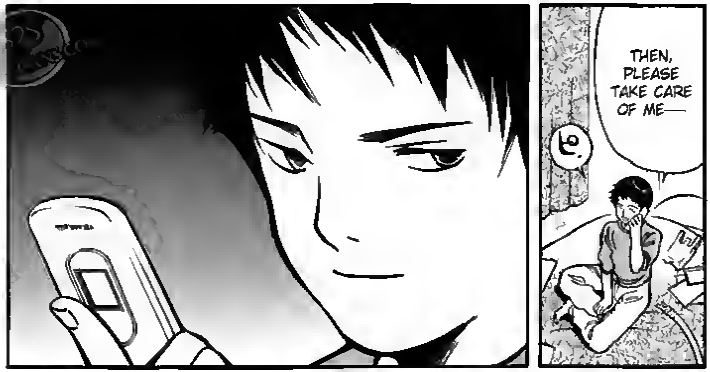
IN ANY CASE IT'S NOT MY STYLE...
WELL, THAT DOESN'T SEEM TO SUIT YOU.
MORE THAN A MILLION FOR A THING LIKE THIS...
.....
WILL IT WORK?
EVERY TIME I CLOSE A DEAL WITH HIM, IT'S MORE THAN A MILLION YEN—
IT'S ABOUT TIME THE MAIN SHOW BEGINS.
I'VE ALREADY DEALT WITH SHIMIZU FIVE TIMES, HE SHOULD TRUST ME BY NOW.

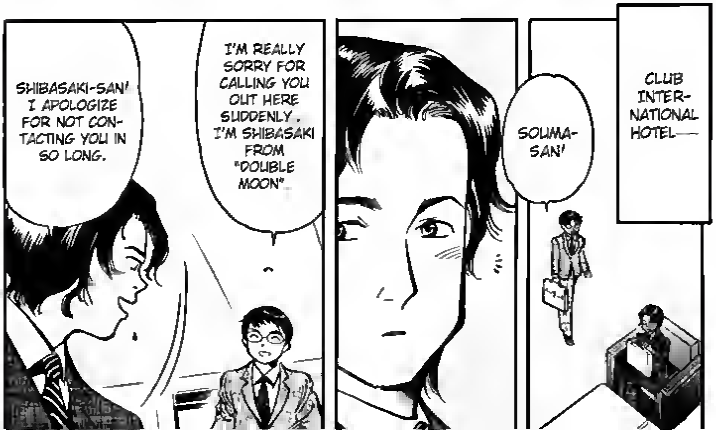
HELLO, I'M SHIBASAKI FROM "DOUBLE MOON"...
THIS IS WHITE LILY BRIDAL.
THANK YOU FOR CALLING.
BR RR
BR RR
MAY I SPEAK TO
WEDDING MANAGER SOUMA-SAN—
WE'VE MET. I'M SHIBASAKI FROM "DOUBLE MOON"...
—YES, THE CALL'S BEEN TRANSFERRED.
LAST MONTH AT THE BRIDAL STAFF PARTY
UMM...I'M SORRY, WHERE HAVE WE MET—
THIS IS SOUMA—
WHITE LILY BRIDAL
WEDDING MANAGER
SOUMA TAKASHI

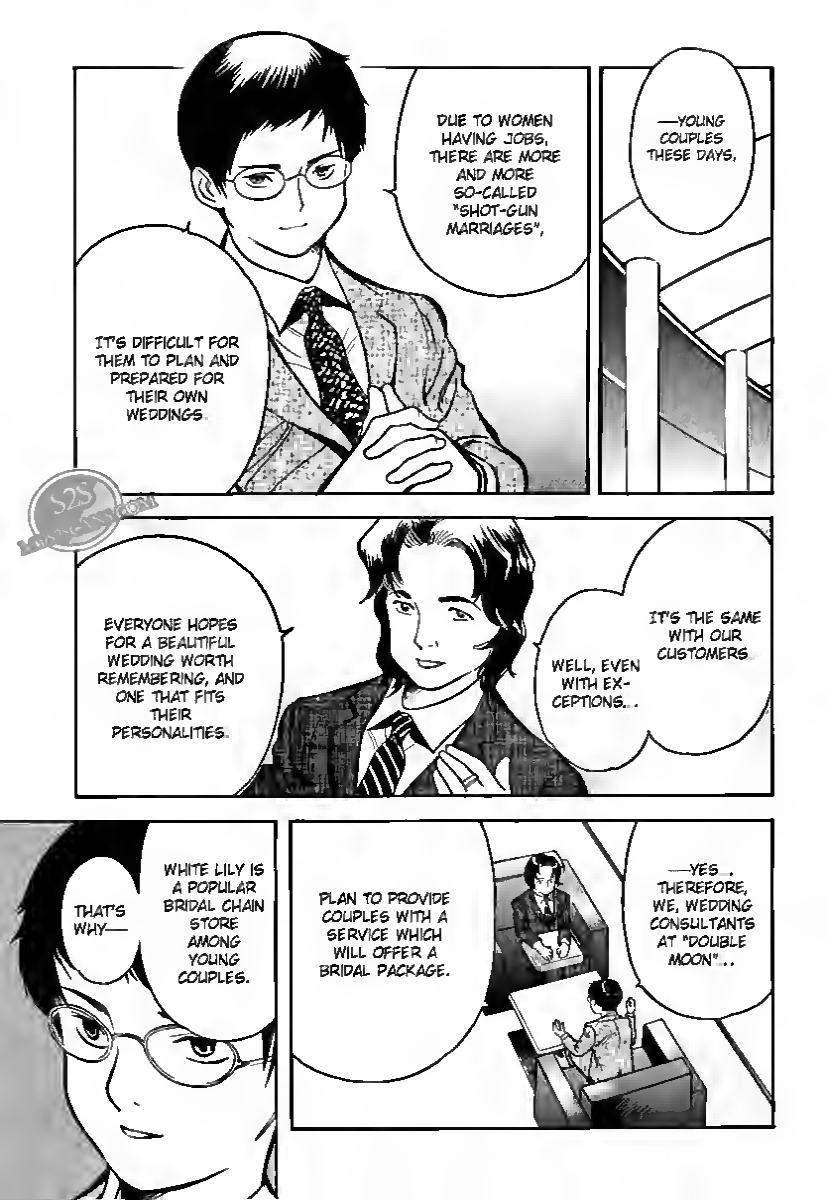
WELL, IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE THAT YOU FORGOT.
WE ONLY EXCHANGED NAME CARDS
AH! I REMEMBER NOW, SORRY!
YOU'RE THE WEDDING CONSULTANT FROM "DOUBLE MOON"!
ACTUALLY THERE'S SOMETHING I WISH TO DISCUSS WITH SOUMA-SAN
OF COURSE IT'S BUSINESS-RELATED
HOW ABOUT IT, SHALL WE MEET TO TALK?
YES, THAT'S SURE
—THEN, WEDNESDAY AT TWO,
IN THE LOBBY OF THE FIRST FLOOR AT CLUB INTER-NATIONAL HOTEL?
BESIDES THAT, COULD YOU BRING ALONG A WHITE LILY PAMPHLET? I'D LIKE TO TAKE A LOOK AT IT
SURE

YES, THIS IS SHIMIZU
AH, HELLO, THIS IS SOUMA FROM WHITE LILY—
BI
NOW THEN, NEXT...
BI
BI
THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS TAKING CARE OF ME
AHH, SOUMA-SAN!
HOW WAS THE SCORE AT OKINO COUNTRY ON SUNDAY?
WELL, I'VE ONLY BEEN AT THE CLUB FOR HALF A YEAR, SO THERE'S STILL A LOT FOR ME TO LEARN
I CALLED TO CHECK ON THE STATUS OF THE PRODUCT WE DISCUSSED —
IT'S FINE, I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU ON TIME
THEN...


IS WEDNESDAY AT 2:30PM, AT CLUB INTERNATIONAL HOTEL FIRST FLOOR LOBBY FINE?
2:30 PM, I GOT IT.

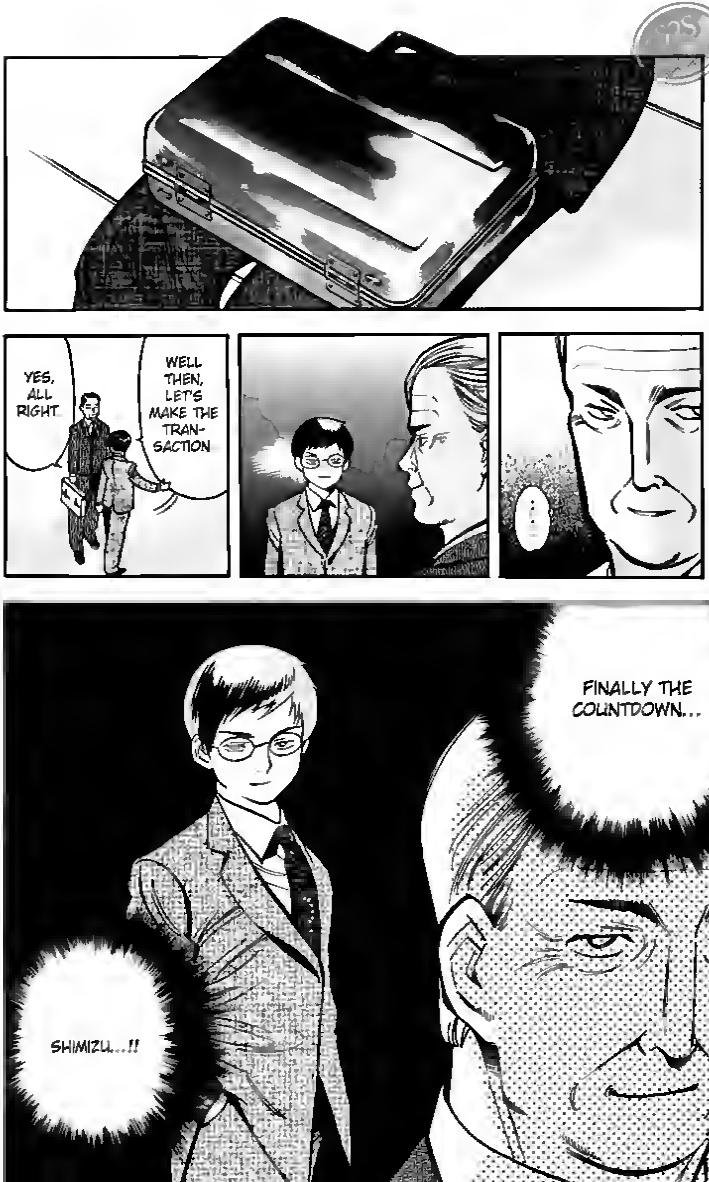

THEN, PLEASE TAKE CARE OF ME—


CLUB INTER-NATIONAL HOTEL—
SOUMA-SAN!
I'M REALLY SORRY FOR CALLING YOU OUT HERE SUDDENLY. I'M SHIBASAKI FROM "DOUBLE MOON".
SHIBASAKI-SAN! I APOLOGIZE FOR NOT CONTACTING YOU IN SO LONG.


—YOUNG COUPLES THESE DAYS,
DUE TO WOMEN HAVING JOBS, THERE ARE MORE AND MORE SO-CALLED "SHOT-GUN MARRIAGES",
IT'S DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO PLAN AND PREPARED FOR THEIR OWN WEDDINGS.
IT'S THE SAME WITH OUR CUSTOMERS.
WELL, EVEN WITH EX-CEPTIONS...
EVERYONE HOPES FOR A BEAUTIFUL WEDDING WORTH REMEMBERING, AND ONE THAT FITS THEIR PERSONALITIES.
—YES . THEREFORE, WE, WEDDING CONSULTANTS AT "DOUBLE MOON"..
PLAN TO PROVIDE COUPLES WITH A SERVICE WHICH WILL OFFER A BRIDAL PACKAGE.
WHITE LILY IS A POPULAR BRIDAL CHAIN STORE AMONG YOUNG COUPLES.
THAT'S WHY—

THAT'S ALREADY ...!!
WE'D LIKE TO HAVE WHITE LILY TO BE OUR PACKAGE PLANNER.
WE TOO WOULD LOVE TO WORK WITH YOU.
RIGHT ON TIME...
SHIMIZU...?
EXCUSE ME, SOUMA-SAN! I HAVE AN IMPORTANT MATTER TO ATTEND TO.
EH?
AH, NOT AT ALL
WE WILL BE DONE IN ABOUT 15 MINUTES. WOULD YOU MIND WAITING HERE FOR ME?

YOU'VE BROUGHT SOMEONE WITH YOU TODAY.
YES..
AS ALWAYS, THANK YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF ME.
GOOD AFTER-NOON, SHIMIZU-SAN.
Sound
MY SUBORDINATE.
AH... I SEE
HE'S RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING THE CASH... THIS TIME THE AMOUNT IS A LOT MORE THAN USUAL RIGHT?


YES, ALL RIGHT.
WELL THEN, LET'S MAKE THE TRAN-SACTION
FINALLY THE COUNTDOWN...
SHIMIZU...!!

Takeshi Natsuhara's Kurosagi (the black swindler)

KUROSAGI CHAPTER 45
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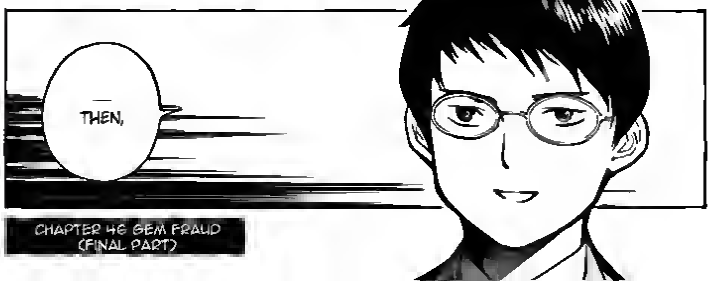
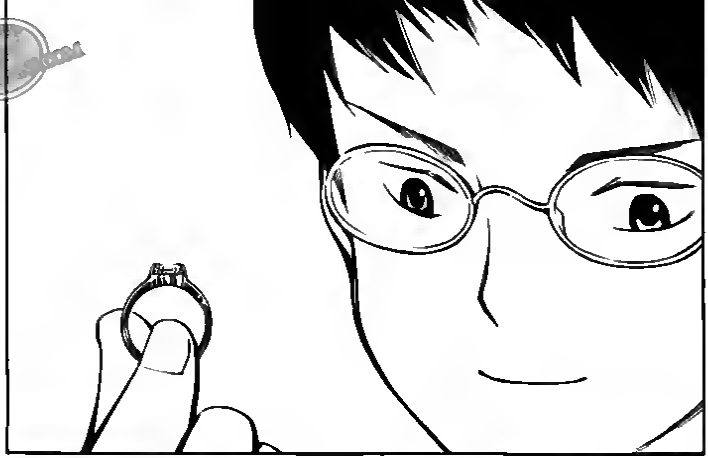
HE'S MY SUBORDINATE.

GEM BROKER
SHIMIZU TADAYUKI

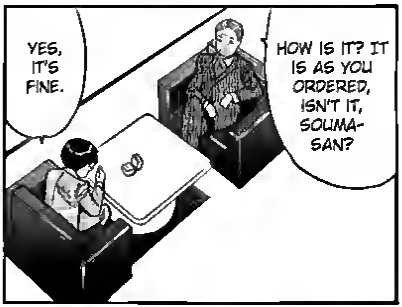
AH . . I SEE.
THIS TIME THE AMOUNT IS A LOT MORE THAN USUAL, ISN'T IT?
HE'S RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING THE CASH

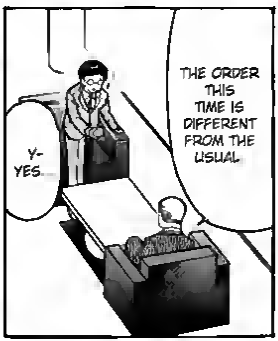

THEN,
CHAPTER 46 GEM FRAUD (FINAL PART)

LET'S MAKE THE TRANSACTION.
CHAPTER 46 GEM FRAUD (FINAL PART)
THE FINAL ONE.



IT'S SPLENDID, AS ALWAYS
……


HOW IS IT? IT IS AS YOU ORDERED, ISN'T IT, SOUMA-SAN?
YES, IT'S FINE.


THE ORDER THIS TIME IS DIFFERENT FROM THE USUAL
Y-YES.

—I DIDN'T ASK WHEN YOU MADE YOUR ORDER, BUT...

ACTU-ALLY...
THE CUSTOMER WHO WANTS TO BUY THIS RING IS IN A ROOM UPSTAIRS.
THIS TIME THE CUSTOMER IS SOMEONE WITH CONNECTIONS TO A POLITICIAN...
THIS WAS CUSTOM MADE FOR THE SAKE OF FUTURE "DEALINGS"
I REALLY DIDN'T WANT TO DO SUCH A THING, BUT
THE BRIDAL CHAIN STORE COMPETITION IS REALLY INTENSE.
.....!!
IT'S DIFFI-CULT, SOUMA-SAN
YES . THIS IS NOTHING LIKE MY WORK
IN ORDER TO KEEP THE BUSINESS GOING, I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE BUT TO STAIN MY HANDS ..
YES, YES... I UNDER-STAND

カチ!
1992
ALL RIGHT.
I'M SOUMA. THE KEY, PLEASE.
...
AH..
IT'S PAST THE TIME OF OUR APPOINTMENT I'LL COME BACK DOWN AFTER I DELIVER THE RING
THE CUSTOMER IS IN A SUITE ON THE 15TH FLOOR. PLEASE EXCUSE ME, SHIMIZU-SAN
MY APOLOGIES. I'LL RETURN IN 15 MINUTES.
—THEN I'LL WAIT HERE.

AH... SURE.
MAY I SIT HERE?
ガラン
ching
.....
Pon
4 5 6
ZOOT

0301

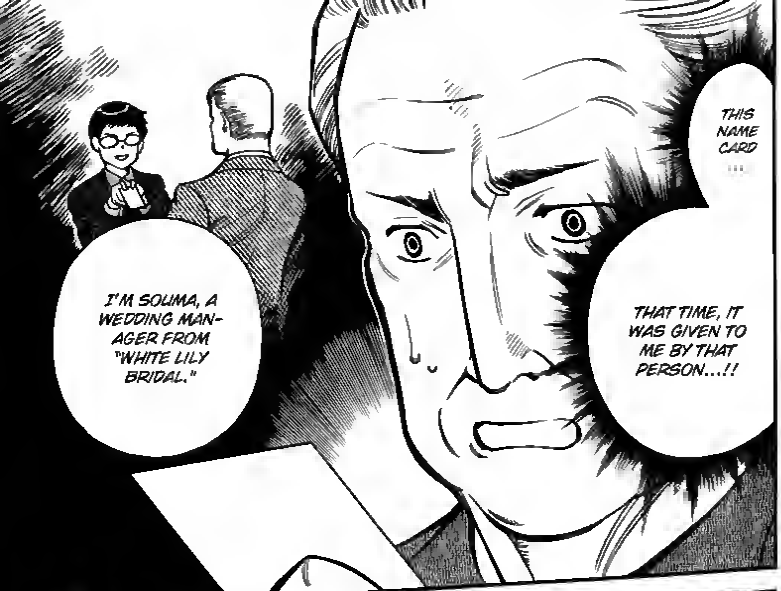
sfx: squeeze
ぎゅうぎゅう
……
……
パチ

Bang
WE'RE GETTING GOOD BUSINESS.
YES, THANKS TO EVERY-ONE...
MUST BE REALLY BUSY.
YOU...

BUT BEING BUSY IS SOMETHING TO BE HAPPY ABOUT AT A TIME LIKE THIS..
chirp
HAHAHA... SERIOUSLY
HOW ARE THINGS ON YOUR SIDE?
IT'S SO-SO... SOMETHING LIKE THAT
プシュン
.....

EH?
SOUMA-SAN... IS TAKING A LONG TIME.
ERR..
SOUMA-SAN SAID HE WOULD TAKE JUST 15 MINUTES—
THE "SOUMA" YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT,
IS IT ME?
—EH?
MY NAME IS "SOUMA".
SUPERVI-SOR? WHICH SUPERVI-SOR?
THEN, WHAT'S YOUR SUPER-VISOR'S NAME?

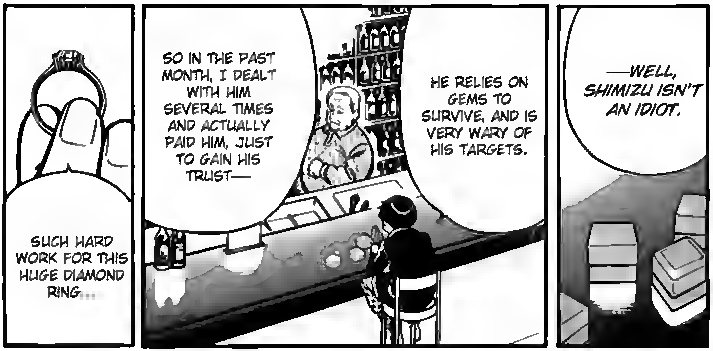
HE'S FROM THE WEDDING CONSULTANT FIRM, "DOUBLE MOON".
THAT'S SHIBASAKI-SAN, NOT MY SUPERVISOR.
THE ONE WHO JUST WENT UP IN THE ELEVATOR!
WHICH SUPERVISOR...
WHAT!?
THIS IS MY NAME CARD.
LOOK
I-IT'S TRUE...

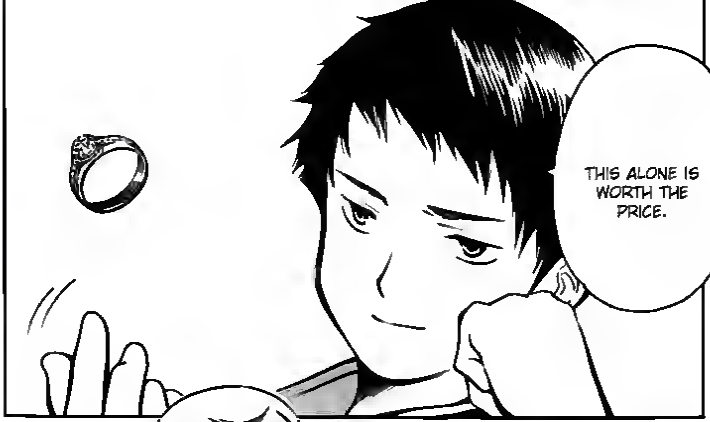

THIS NAME CARD ...
THAT TIME, IT WAS GIVEN TO ME BY THAT PERSON...!!
I'M SOUMA, A WEDDING MANAGER FROM "WHITE LILY BRIDAL."

WHY WOULD HE HAVE THIS NAME CARD...!
THAT SHIBASAKI-SAN HAS MY NAME CARD.
TWO MONTHS AGO.. WHEN WE MET FOR THE FIRST TIME,
I GAVE IT TO SHIBASAKI-SAN

THAT RING!!
WHAT HAPPENED TO SHIBASAKI-SAN...
JUST WHAT IS GOING ON?
14
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING!!
LET ME SEE THE CON-TENTS!
EH
GIVE ME YOUR BAG!!
White Lily Bridal

I'VE BEEN COMPLETELY..!!
DECEIVED!!
THAT MAN—!!

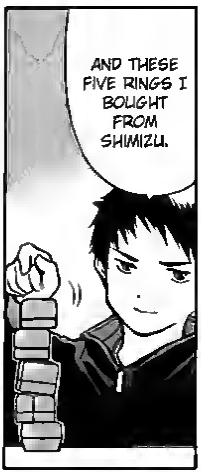

SUCH HARD WORK FOR THIS HUGE DIAMOND RING...
SO IN THE PAST MONTH, I DEALT WITH HIM SEVERAL TIMES AND ACTUALLY PAID HIM, JUST TO GAIN HIS TRUST—
HE RELIES ON GEMS TO SURVIVE, AND IS VERY WARY OF HIS TARGETS.
—WELL, SHIMIZU ISN'T AN IDIOT.

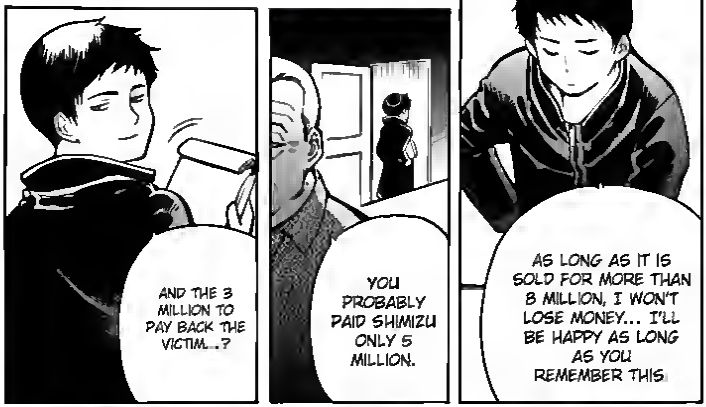

THIS ALONE IS WORTH THE PRICE.

—SELL THIS?

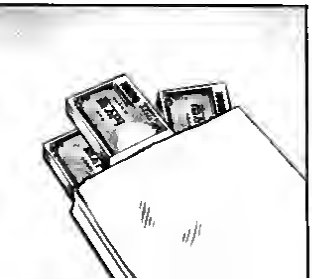
WELL THEN, SELL IT AT A HIGHER PRICE AND GET YOUR COMMISSION FROM IT.

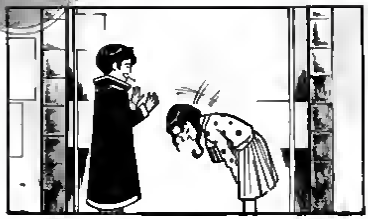
THE PRICE ISN'T FOR YOU TO DECIDE
HONESTLY, I'VE USED MY MONEY TOO RECKLESSLY THIS TIME. I'M HOPING YOU CAN SELL IT AT A HIGHER PRICE...

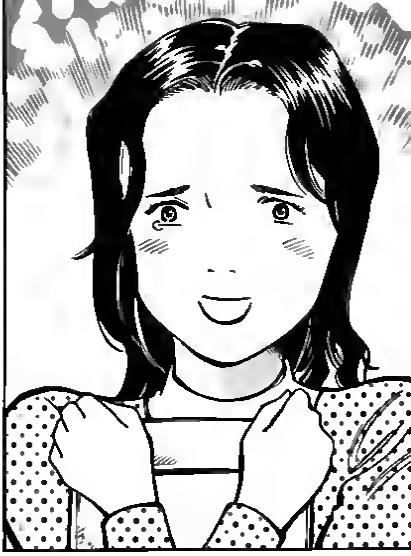

AND THESE FIVE RINGS I BOUGHT FROM SHIMIZU.

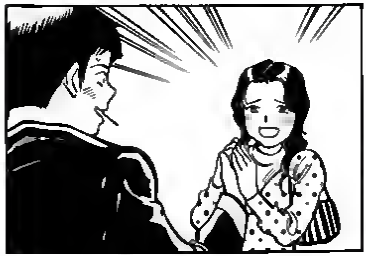

AND THE 3 MILLION TO PAY BACK THE VICTIM...?
YOU PROBABLY PAID SHIMIZU ONLY 5 MILLION.
AS LONG AS IT IS SOLD FOR MORE THAN 8 MILLION, I WON'T LOSE MONEY... I'LL BE HAPPY AS LONG AS YOU REMEMBER THIS.

.....









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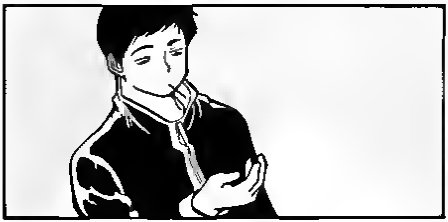
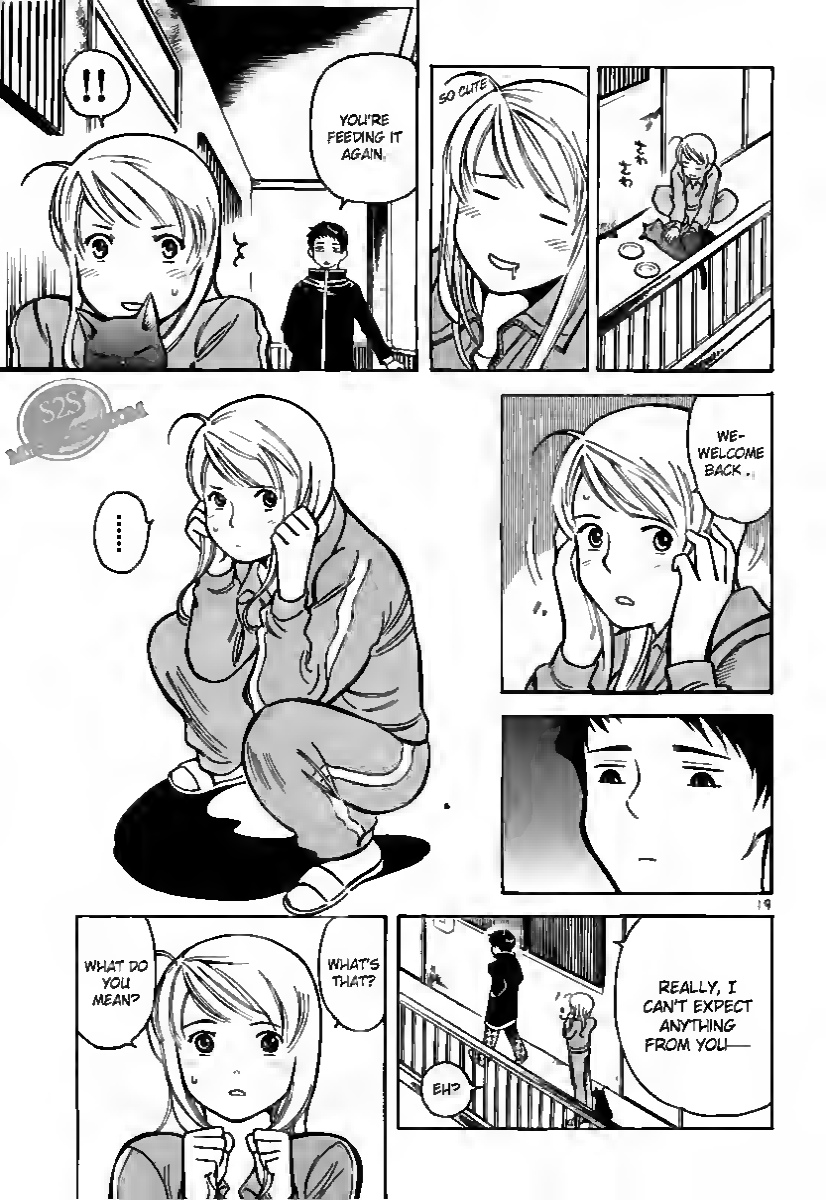
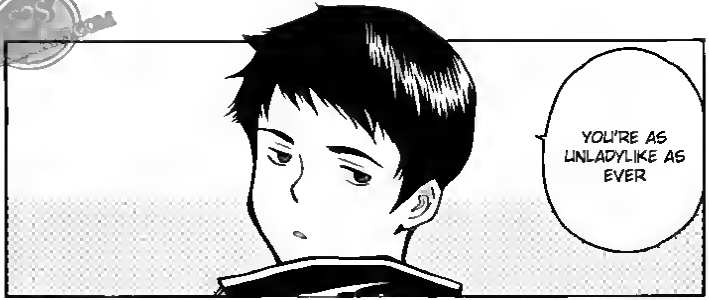
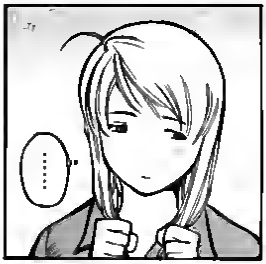



!!
YOU'RE FEEDING IT AGAIN.
SO CUTE
なでなで
WE-WELCOME BACK.
.....
WHAT'S THAT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
EH?
REALLY, I CAN'T EXPECT ANYTHING FROM YOU——


YOU'RE AS UNLADYLIKE AS EVER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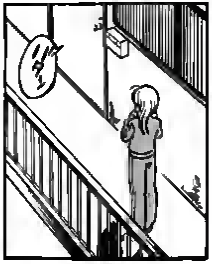
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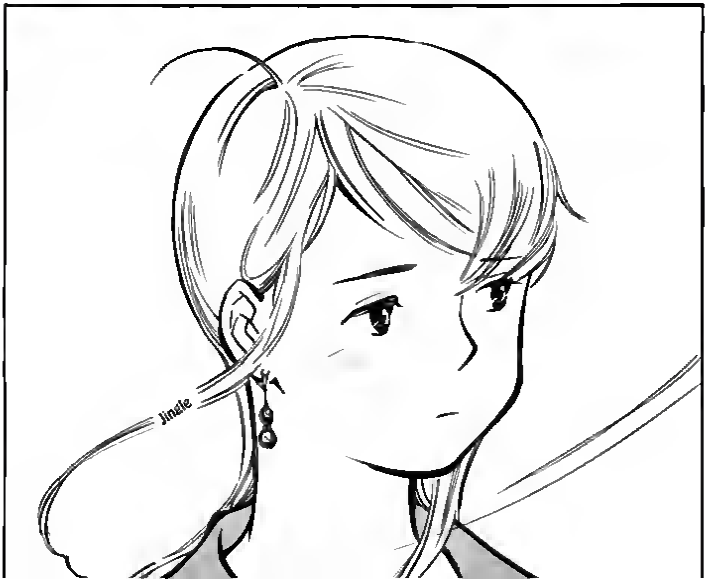
Jingle

Kurosagi (the black swindler)

Written by Takeshi Natsuhara, Illustrated by Kuromaru

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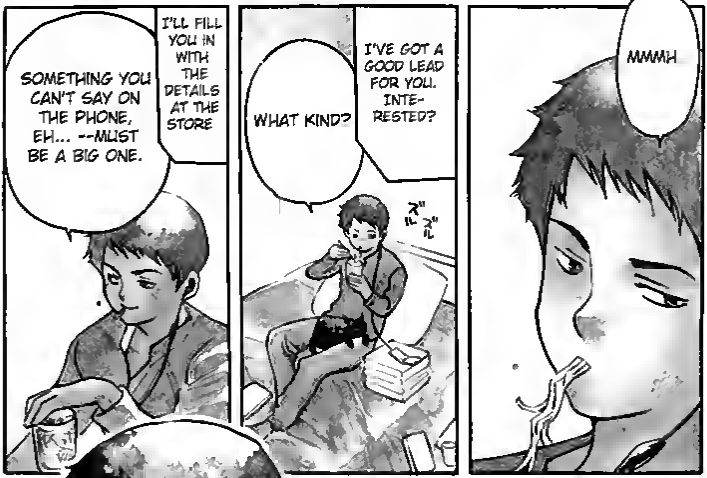
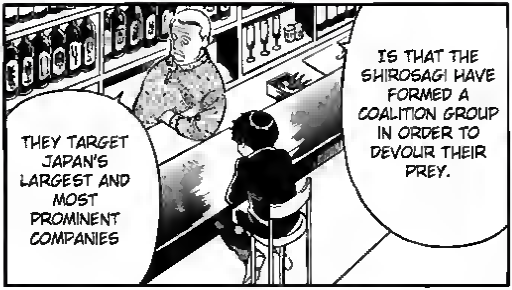
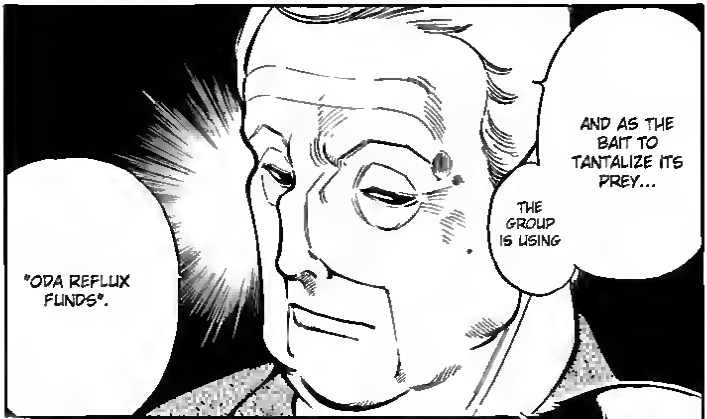

MMMH
I'VE GOT A GOOD LEAD FOR YOU. INTE-RESTED?
WHAT KIND?
I'LL FILL YOU IN WITH THE DETAILS AT THE STORE
SOMETHING YOU CAN'T SAY ON THE PHONE, EH... --MUST BE A BIG ONE.

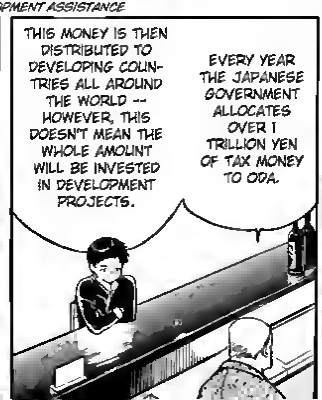
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THAT KIND OF INFO.

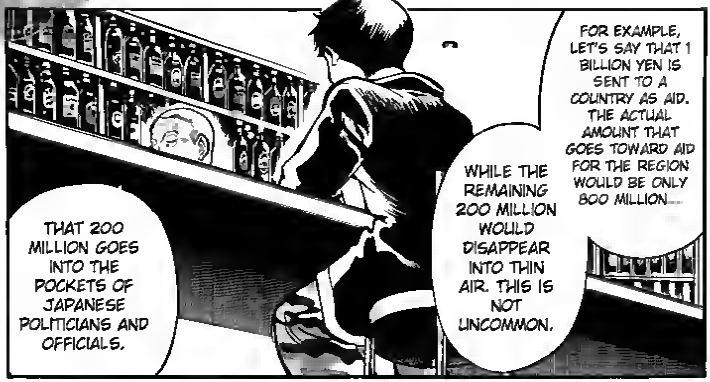
CHAPTER 47 ODA REFLUX FUND FRAUD I


THEY TARGET JAPAN'S LARGEST AND MOST PROMINENT COMPANIES
IS THAT THE SHIROSAGI HAVE FORMED A COALITION GROUP IN ORDER TO DEVOUR THEIR PREY.

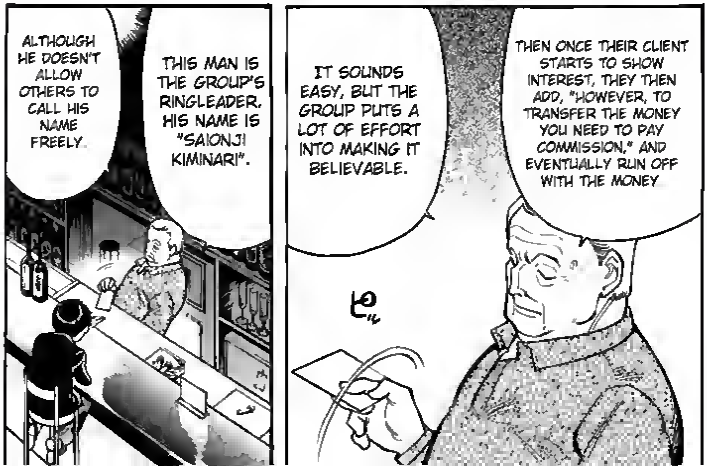


*OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE


THIS MONEY IS THEN DISTRIBUTED TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ALL AROUND THE WORLD -- HOWEVER, THIS DOESN'T MEAN THE WHOLE AMOUNT WILL BE INVESTED IN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.
EVERY YEAR THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT ALLOCATES OVER 1 TRILLION YEN OF TAX MONEY TO ODA.

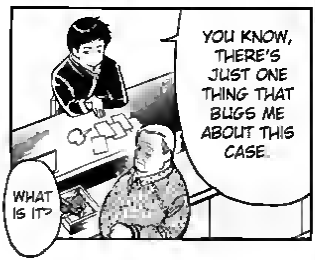

FOR EXAMPLE, LET'S SAY THAT 1 BILLION YEN IS SENT TO A COUNTRY AS AID. THE ACTUAL AMOUNT THAT GOES TOWARD AID FOR THE REGION WOULD BE ONLY 800 MILLION...
WHILE THE REMAINING 200 MILLION WOULD DISAPPEAR INTO THIN AIR. THIS IS NOT UNCOMMON.
THAT 200 MILLION GOES INTO THE POCKETS OF JAPANESE POLITICIANS AND OFFICIALS.

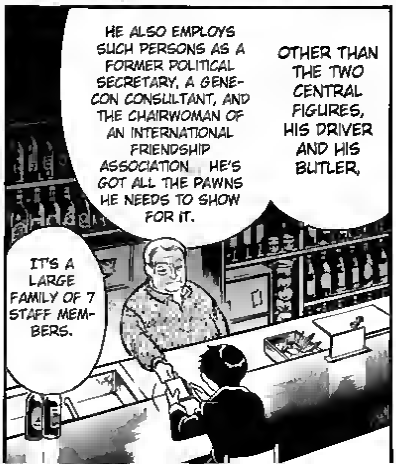
THE SHIROSAGI GROUP TAKES ADVANTAGE OF THIS ISSUE.
THEY WOULD FIRST ESTABLISH THEMSELVES AS SOMEONE WITH A LOT OF INFLUENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT, GET IN TOUCH WITH THE COMPANY'S EXECUTIVES,
AND SAY TO THEM, "WE CAN GIVE YOU A LOW-INTEREST LOAN OF ODA REFLUX FUNDS . AND IT JUST SO HAPPENS WE'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO FINANCE IN"--


THEN ONCE THEIR CLIENT STARTS TO SHOW INTEREST, THEY THEN ADD, "HOWEVER, TO TRANSFER THE MONEY YOU NEED TO PAY COMMISSION," AND EVENTUALLY RUN OFF WITH THE MONEY.
IT SOUNDS EASY, BUT THE GROUP PUTS A LOT OF EFFORT INTO MAKING IT BELIEVABLE.
THIS MAN IS THE GROUP'S RINGLEADER. HIS NAME IS "SAIONJI KIMINARI".
ALTHOUGH HE DOESN'T ALLOW OTHERS TO CALL HIS NAME FREELY.

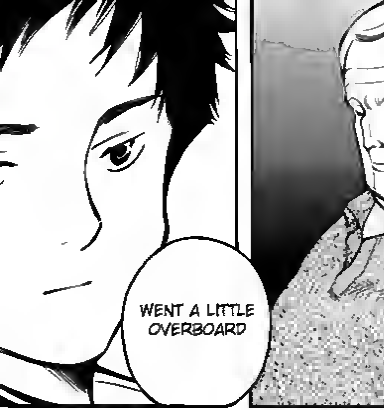
USUALLY, HE GOES BY "GOZEN".
TL NOTE: GOZEN: LORD. IT SOUNDED BETTER AS GOZEN
"GOZEN"
--NOW, REALLY
TL NOTE: GENECON: GENERAL CONTRACTOR (FIRM)

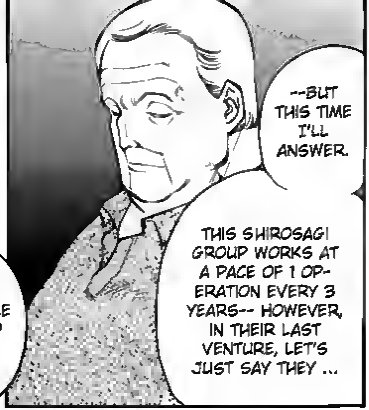
.....

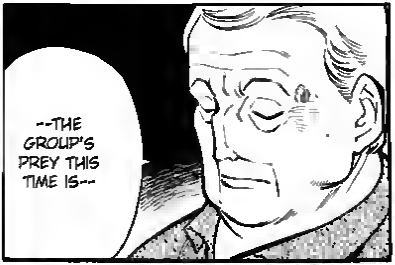

YOU KNOW, THERE'S JUST ONE THING THAT BUGS ME ABOUT THIS CASE.
WHAT IS IT?


OTHER THAN THE TWO CENTRAL FIGURES, HIS DRIVER AND HIS BUTLER,
HE ALSO EMPLOYS SUCH PERSONS AS A FORMER POLITICAL SECRETARY, A GENECON CONSULTANT, AND THE CHAIRWOMAN OF AN INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION... HE'S GOT ALL THE PAWNS HE NEEDS TO SHOW FOR IT.
IT'S A LARGE FAMILY OF 7 STAFF MEMBERS.

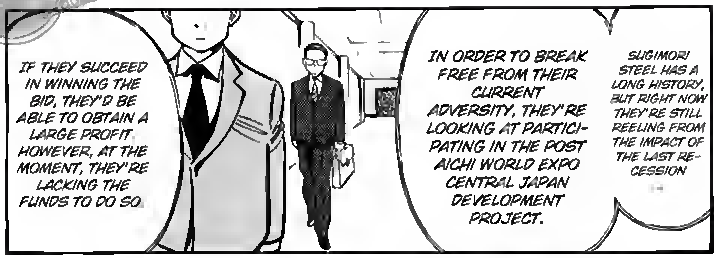
I CAN'T UNDER-STAND
WHY YOU'D SELL SUCH A BIG SHIROSAGI GROUP AS THIS TO ME...!
IT'S A VETERAN GROUP.
I'M SURE YOU'VE HAD DEALINGS WITH THEM IN THE PAST.
WHY THE HELL WOULD YOU SELL THEM OVER TO SOMEONE LIKE ME?
SO DID THESE GUYS DO SOMETHING TO YOU...?
THAT'S WHY YOU WANT ME TO GET RID OF THEM, RIGHT?
--REMEMBER THE GOLDEN RULE WHEN DOING BUSINESS WITH ME?
"DON'T ASK ANY UNNECESSARY QUESTIONS."

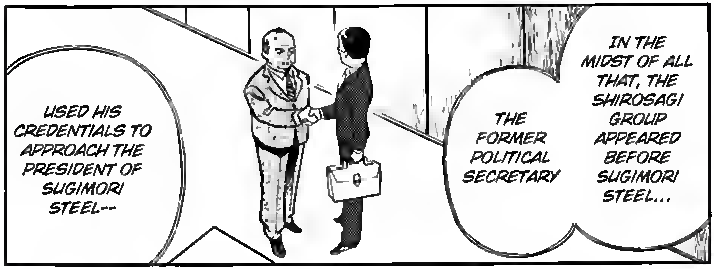


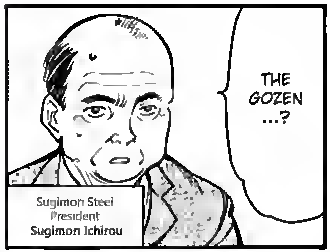

--BUT THIS TIME I'LL ANSWER.
THIS SHIROSAGI GROUP WORKS AT A PACE OF 1 OPERATION EVERY 3 YEARS-- HOWEVER, IN THEIR LAST VENTURE, LET'S JUST SAY THEY ...

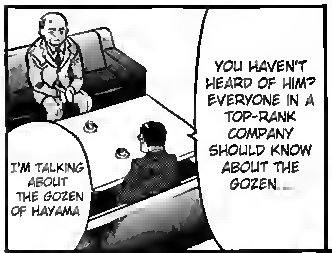


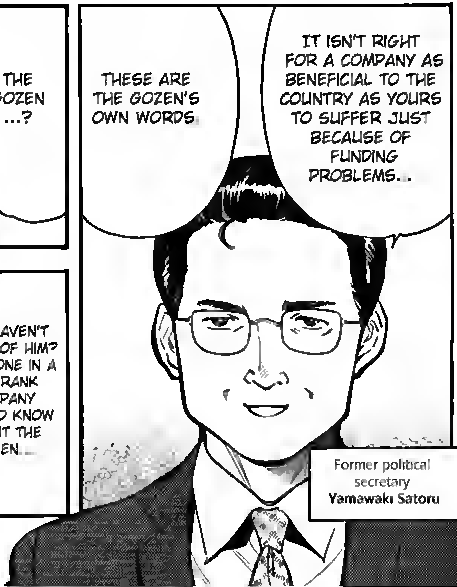
TL NOTE: BASED ON A TRUE FRAUD INVOLVING FUJI STEEL IN THE 1970S


IF THEY SUCCEED IN WINNING THE BID, THEY'D BE ABLE TO OBTAIN A LARGE PROFIT. HOWEVER, AT THE MOMENT, THEY'RE LACKING THE FUNDS TO DO SO.
IN ORDER TO BREAK FREE FROM THEIR CURRENT ADVERSITY, THEY'RE LOOKING AT PARTICIPATING IN THE POST AICHI WORLD EXPO CENTRAL JAPAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.
SUGIMORI STEEL HAS A LONG HISTORY, BUT RIGHT NOW THEY'RE STILL REELING FROM THE IMPACT OF THE LAST RECESSION

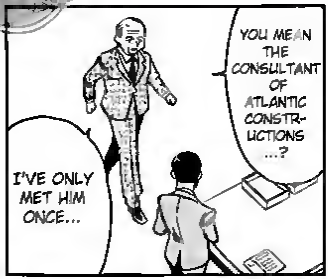

USED HIS CREDENTIALS TO APPROACH THE PRESIDENT OF SUGIMORI STEEL--
THE FORMER POLITICAL SECRETARY
IN THE MIDST OF ALL THAT, THE SHIROSAGI GROUP APPEARED BEFORE SUGIMORI STEEL...

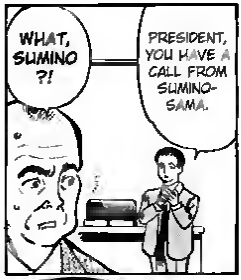

THE GOZEN ...?
Sugimori Steel President Sugimori Ichirou


YOU HAVEN'T HEARD OF HIM? EVERYONE IN A TOP-RANK COMPANY SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE GOZEN...
I'M TALKING ABOUT THE GOZEN OF HAYAMA


THESE ARE THE GOZEN'S OWN WORDS.
IT ISN'T RIGHT FOR A COMPANY AS BENEFICIAL TO THE COUNTRY AS YOURS TO SUFFER JUST BECAUSE OF FUNDING PROBLEMS...
Former political secretary Yamawaki Satoru

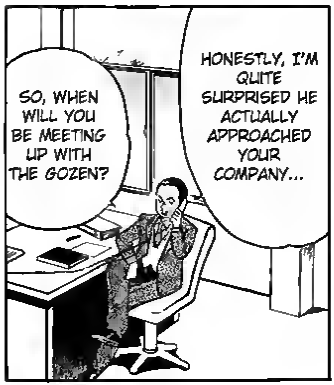
I'M SURE YOU RECOGNIZE THE OTHERS IN THE PHOTO.
THE PERSON IN THE CENTER IS THE GOZEN.
IF THE HOUSE OF PEERS STILL EXISTED TODAY, HE'D BE SOMEONE AT THE TOP. --WELL, TAKE A LOOK AT THIS PHOTO...
UMM...
I HOPE YOU'RE CLEAR NOW.
WH-WHO IS THIS PERSON ...
A-AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JAPAN INDUSTRIAL CENTER TOO...
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE DEMO-CRATIC-LIBERAL PARTY...!!
IS A GREAT HONOR.
TO BE APPROACHED BY THE GOZEN

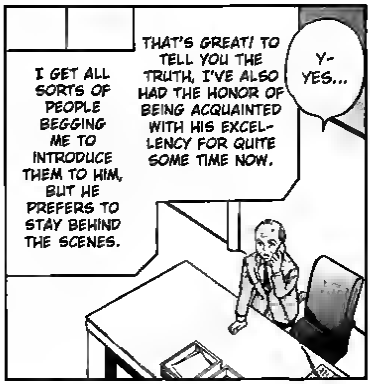

YOU MEAN THE CONSULTANT OF ATLANTIC CONSTRUCTIONS ...?
I'VE ONLY MET HIM ONCE...


WHAT, SUMINO ?!
PRESIDENT, YOU HAVE A CALL FROM SUMINO-SAMA.

リリリ

HELLO, SORRY FOR THE SUDDEN CALL.
--IT'S NOTHING URGENT, I JUST HAPPENED TO HEAR YOU WERE CONTACTED BY THE GOZEN.
Atlantic Constructions
Consultant
Sumino Kousuke


SO, WHEN WILL YOU BE MEETING UP WITH THE GOZEN?
HONESTLY, I'M QUITE SURPRISED HE ACTUALLY APPROACHED YOUR COMPANY...


I GET ALL SORTS OF PEOPLE BEGGING ME TO INTRODUCE THEM TO HIM, BUT HE PREFERS TO STAY BEHIND THE SCENES.
THAT'S GREAT! TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I'VE ALSO HAD THE HONOR OF BEING ACQUAINTED WITH HIS EXCELLENCY FOR QUITE SOME TIME NOW.
Y-YES...

.....
DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH OF AN HONOR IT IS TO BE GIVEN AN AUDIENCE WITH HIS EXCELLENCY?
HEY, LISTEN UP...
W-WELL ...
ONLY ONE PERSON WERE TO MENTION THE GOZEN, THE CLIENT MIGHT FIND IT SUSPICIOUS...
-SUPPOSING AT THAT INSTANCE,
HOWEVER, IN REALITY, HE HAS ALREADY LEFT ATLANTIC CONSTRUCTION AND IS NO LONGER A CONSULTANT.
WHAT'S MORE, THE GENECON CONSULTANT IS A PERSON SUGIMORI STEEL IS FAMILIAR WITH-- IN OTHER WORDS, A "REAL" PERSON.
HOWEVER, THIS SHIROSAGI GROUP MAKES ITS STORY SOUND MORE PLAUSIBLE BY USING TWO PEOPLE FROM COMPLETELY DIFFERENT AREAS; AN EX-POLITICAL SECRETARY AND A GENECON CONSULTANT.

SINCE THE RESIGNATION WAS NEGOTIATED IN ADVANCE, THOSE IN THE COMPANY RESPONSIBLE FOR IT ALSO KEPT THE EXPULSION A SECRET.
THAT'S WHY HE PRESENTS HIMSELF AS THE CONSULTANT "PULLING THE STRINGS"--IN ORDER TO TAKE PART IN SHADY DEALS.
THE GROUP DECIDED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS
SO, SUGIMORI STEEL WENT TO MEET THE GOZEN AND..?
ATAMI --
.....

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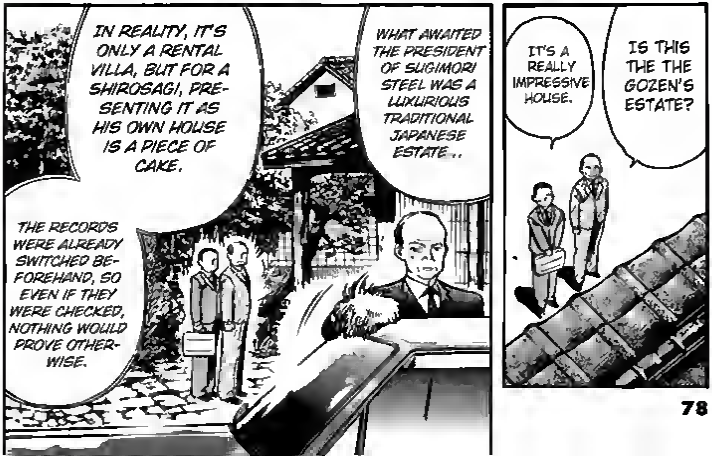
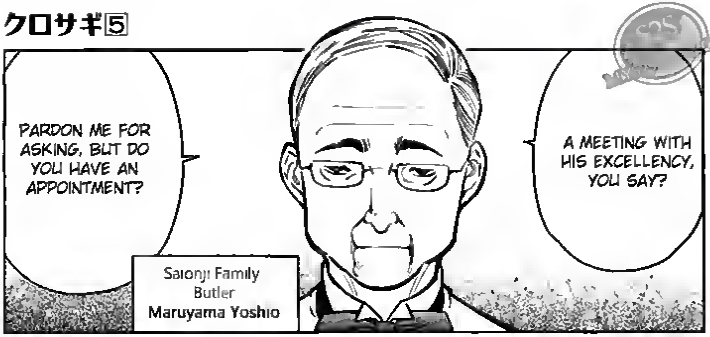
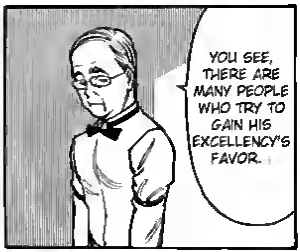
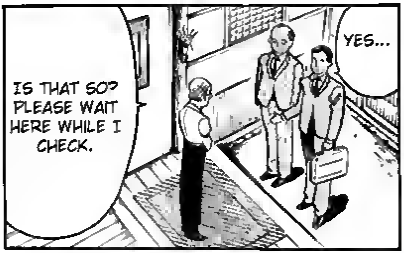

IN REALITY, IT'S ONLY A RENTAL VILLA, BUT FOR A SHIROSAGI, PRESENTING IT AS HIS OWN HOUSE IS A PIECE OF CAKE.
WHAT AWAITED THE PRESIDENT OF SUGIMORI STEEL WAS A LUXURIOUS TRADITIONAL JAPANESE ESTATE..
THE RECORDS WERE ALREADY SWITCHED BEFOREHAND, SO EVEN IF THEY WERE CHECKED, NOTHING WOULD PROVE OTHERWISE.
IT'S A REALLY IMPRESSIVE HOUSE.
IS THIS THE THE GOZEN'S ESTATE?


PARDON ME FOR ASKING, BUT DO YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT?
A MEETING WITH HIS EXCELLENCY, YOU SAY?
Saionji Family
Butler
Maruyama Yoshio


YOU SEE, THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE WHO TRY TO GAIN HIS EXCELLENCY'S FAVOR.


IS THAT SO? PLEASE WAIT HERE WHILE I CHECK.
YES...

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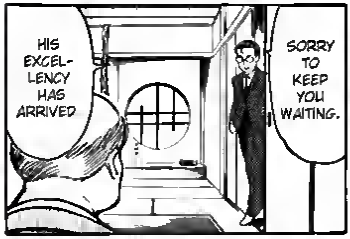
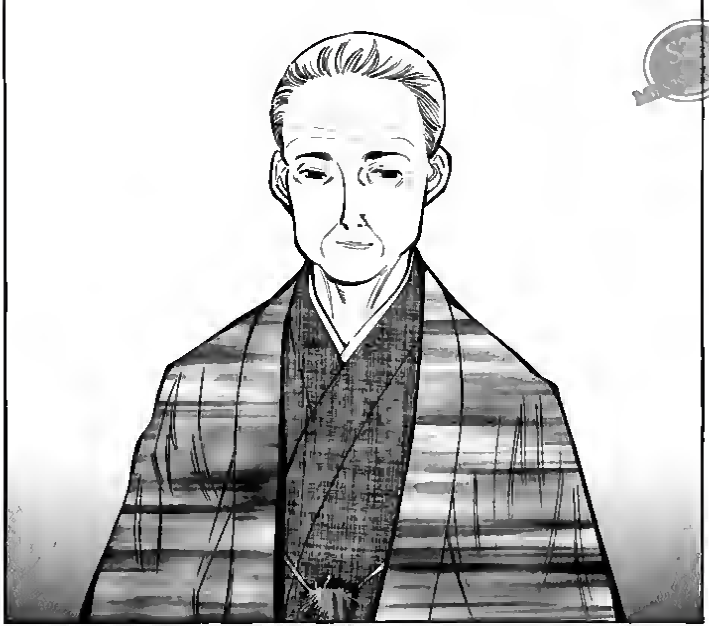

HIS EXCEL-LENCY HAS ARRIVED
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.

!!



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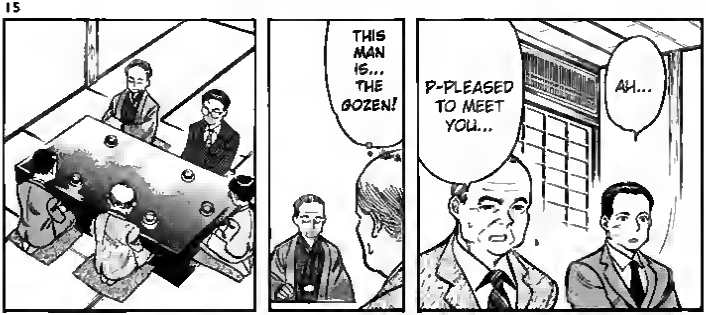
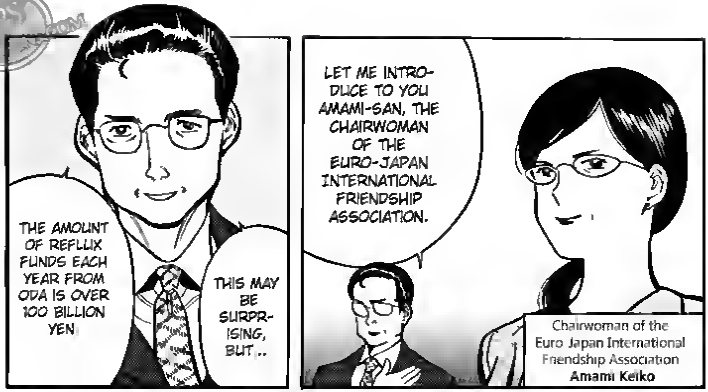
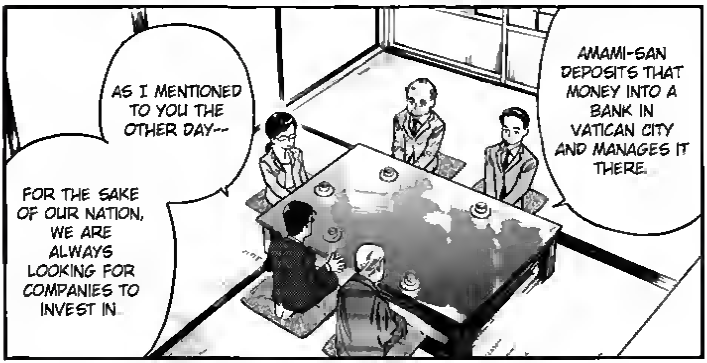



THE AMOUNT OF REFLUX FUNDS EACH YEAR FROM ODA IS OVER 100 BILLION YEN.
THIS MAY BE SURPRISING, BUT..
LET ME INTRODUCE TO YOU AMAMI-SAN, THE CHAIRWOMAN OF THE EURO-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION.
Chairwoman of the Euro Japan International Friendship Association
Amami Keiko


AS I MENTIONED TO YOU THE OTHER DAY--
FOR THE SAKE OF OUR NATION, WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR COMPANIES TO INVEST IN.
AMAMI-SAN DEPOSITS THAT MONEY INTO A BANK IN VATICAN CITY AND MANAGES IT THERE.

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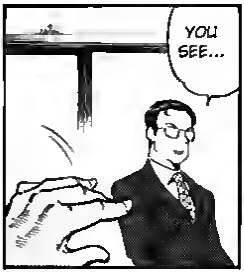
HOWEVER ---
...
IT WILL EVENTUALLY BRING BENEFIT TO THIS COUNTRY.
ALTHOUGH IT PAINS ME TO ADMIT THAT WE CAN ONLY CREATE FUNDS FROM THE SURPLUS OF OVERSEAS AID,

AS MY COLLEAGUE EXPLAINED, THE FUNDS ARE LOCATED IN A VATICAN CITY BANK...
SO IN ORDER FOR US TO LEND YOU THE MONEY, YOUR COMPANY WILL HAVE TO PAY A COMMISSION FEE.
I WILL DISCUSS THE AMOUNT WITH YOU ON A LATER OCCASION.

!!


YOU SEE...

WHY DID YOU APPROACH A COMPANY SUCH AS OURS...?
BUT, UMM...

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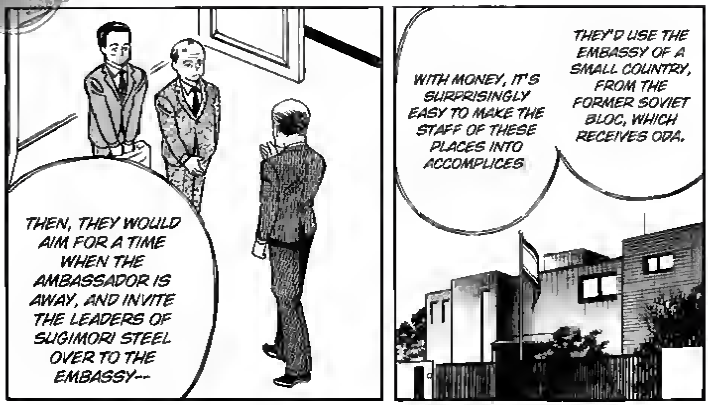
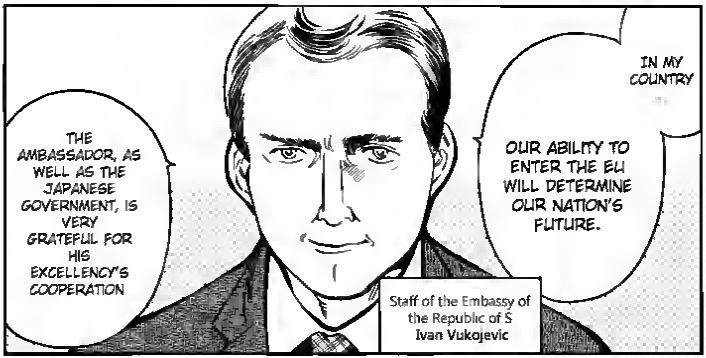
.....

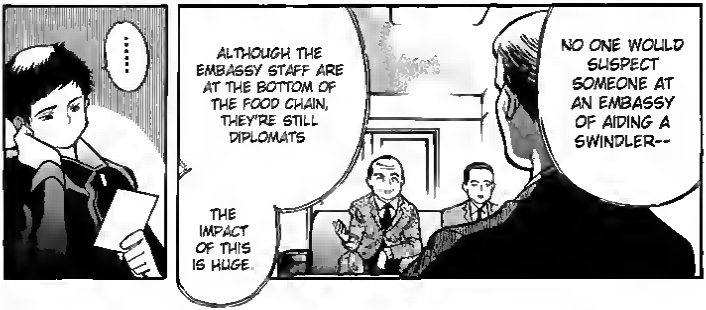
HOWEVER, IF YOU ASK ME, WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS WHETHER IT'S OF NATIONAL INTEREST OR NOT
ALL THEY TALK ABOUT IS IT-THIS AND IT-THAT. ONLY THE LEADERS OF INDUSTRIES MADE OF THIN AIR ARE BEING SINGLED OUT...

... NOWADAYS,

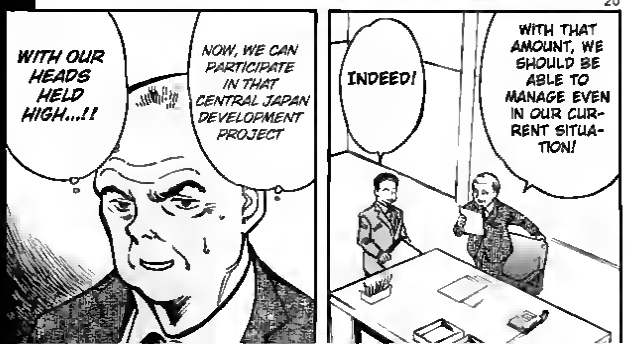
THE CURRENT JAPAN WAS BUILT BY LONG-STANDING KEY INDUSTRIES SUCH AS YOURS.
TO NURTURE THE COMPANIES WHO SUPPORT OUR NATION'S FOUNDATIONS --
THAT IS MY LIFE'S WORK..!
.....!!
--SO THAT'S THE FIRST PHASE.
THE NEXT STAGE IS AN EMBASSY IN AZABU.
THE OBJECTIVE IS TO OVERWHELM HIS PREY WITH THE AURA OF THE ESTATE AND THE INDIVIDUALS. THE SAME GOES FOR THE SECOND PHASE.
WHAT, AN EMBASSY?!


THEN, THEY WOULD AIM FOR A TIME WHEN THE AMBASSADOR IS AWAY, AND INVITE THE LEADERS OF SUGIMORI STEEL OVER TO THE EMBASSY--
WITH MONEY, IT'S SURPRISINGLY EASY TO MAKE THE STAFF OF THESE PLACES INTO ACCOMPLICES
THEY'D USE THE EMBASSY OF A SMALL COUNTRY, FROM THE FORMER SOVIET BLOC, WHICH RECEIVES ODA.

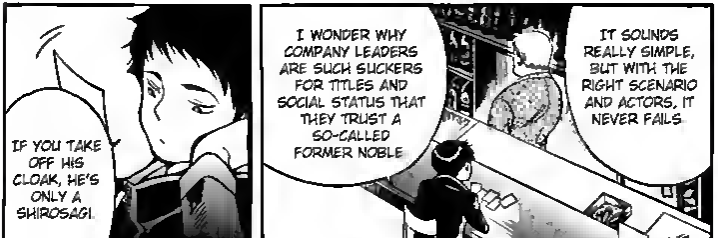

THE AMBASSADOR, AS WELL AS THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT, IS VERY GRATEFUL FOR HIS EXCELLENCY'S COOPERATION
IN MY COUNTRY
OUR ABILITY TO ENTER THE EU WILL DETERMINE OUR NATION'S FUTURE.
Staff of the Embassy of the Republic of S
Ivan Vukojevic

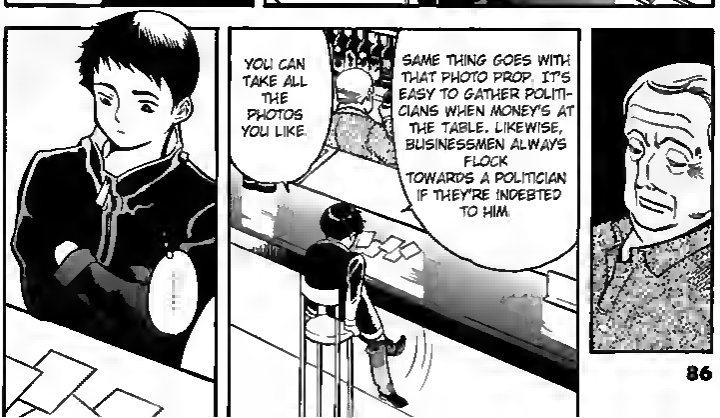

.....
ALTHOUGH THE EMBASSY STAFF ARE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE FOOD CHAIN, THEY'RE STILL DIPLOMATS
THE IMPACT OF THIS IS HUGE.
NO ONE WOULD SUSPECT SOMEONE AT AN EMBASSY OF AIDING A SWINDLER--

AND THEN --
THAT GOES WITHOUT SAYING, AS THE SHIROSAGI HAS MADE A LIVING OUT OF THIS RUSE
THE LEADERS OF SUGIMORI STEEL WOULD GROW TO ADMIRE GOZEN
AFTER SEVERAL MEETINGS AND MANY CONVERSATIONS,
WE'VE FINALLY REACHED AN AGREEMENT!
THE COMMISSION FEE TO TRANSFER 2 BILLION OF ODA REFLUX FUNDS INTO THE COUNTRY HAS BEEN CONFIRMED AT 100 MILLION YEN!


WITH OUR HEADS HELD HIGH...!!
NOW, WE CAN PARTICIPATE IN THAT CENTRAL JAPAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
INDEED!
WITH THAT AMOUNT, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO MANAGE EVEN IN OUR CURRENT SITUATION!

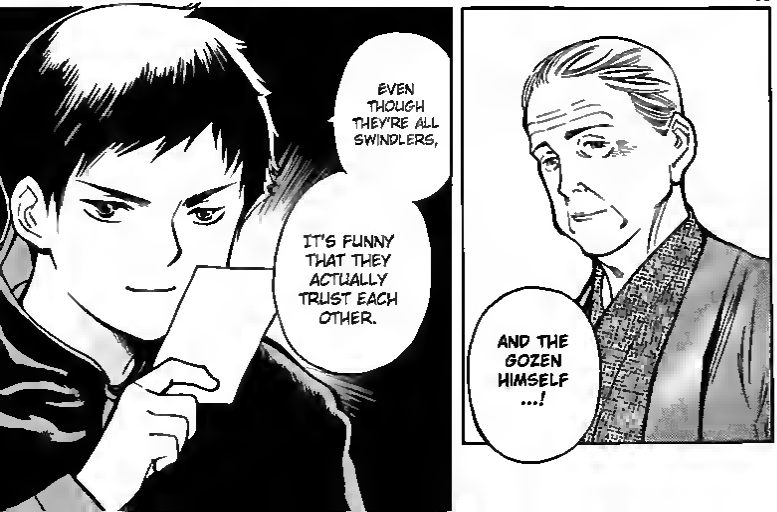
SWINDLING MONEY BY LURING THE LEADERS OF A LARGE COMPANY WITH A SWEET DEAL, THEN TELLING THEM THAT THEY NEED TO PAY A LARGE AMOUNT OF COMMISSION...
IT'S WHAT THEY CALL AN "M-FUND FRAUD."

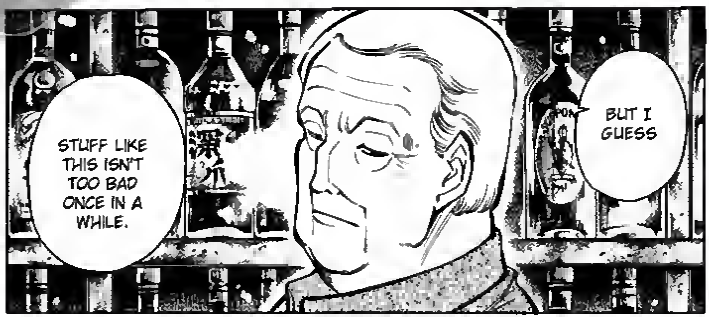

IF YOU TAKE OFF HIS CLOAK, HE'S ONLY A SHIROSAGI.
I WONDER WHY COMPANY LEADERS ARE SUCH SUCKERS FOR TITLES AND SOCIAL STATUS THAT THEY TRUST A SO-CALLED FORMER NOBLE.
IT SOUNDS REALLY SIMPLE, BUT WITH THE RIGHT SCENARIO AND ACTORS, IT NEVER FAILS.


YOU CAN TAKE ALL THE PHOTOS YOU LIKE.
SAME THING GOES WITH THAT PHOTO PROP. IT'S EASY TO GATHER POLITICIANS WHEN MONEY'S AT THE TABLE. LIKEWISE, BUSINESSMEN ALWAYS FLOCK TOWARDS A POLITICIAN IF THEY'RE INDEBTED TO HIM.

*A LARGE-SCALE FUND FRAUD BASED ON THE RUMORS THAT AFTER THE WAR, GENERAL MARQUIS CHIEF OF THE ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC SECTION AT SCAP (SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS) HID ALL THE JEWELRY COLLECTED FROM AROUND JAPAN, ESTIMATED TO BE WORTH SEVERAL TENS OF TRILLIONS OF YEN. IN A SECRET LOCATION. THEY WOULD PROMISE SEVERAL LOANS AND RUN OFF WITH THE COMMISSION FEE.

The chairwoman of an international friendship association.
The fake Genecon consultant
The former political secretary.
The embassy employee.
The driver
The butler of an estate.


EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE ALL SWINDLERS,
IT'S FUNNY THAT THEY ACTUALLY TRUST EACH OTHER.
AND THE GOZEN HIMSELF ...!


STUFF LIKE THIS ISN'T TOO BAD ONCE IN A WHILE.
BUT I GUESS

AND BECOME A MEMBER OF THIS "FORMER NOBLE" GOZEN-SAMA'S LITTLE FAMILY...!
MAYBE I SHOULD GET IN ON THE FUN

Kurosagi (the black swindler)

Written by Takeshi Natsuhara
Illustrated by Kuromaru

KUROSAGI CHAPTER 47
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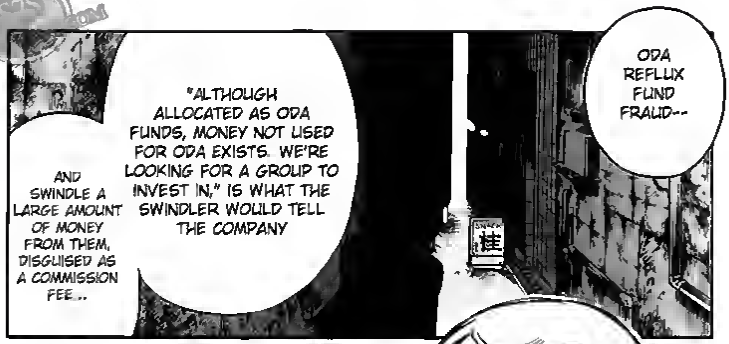
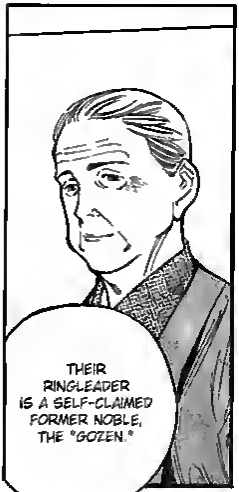
CHAPTER 48
ODA REFLUX PUNO FRAUD II


ODA REFLUX FUND FRAUD--
"ALTHOUGH ALLOCATED AS ODA FUNDS, MONEY NOT USED FOR ODA EXISTS. WE'RE LOOKING FOR A GROUP TO INVEST IN," IS WHAT THE SWINDLER WOULD TELL THE COMPANY
AND SWINDLE A LARGE AMOUNT OF MONEY FROM THEM, DISGUISED AS A COMMISSION FEE...

IN OTHER WORDS, AN M-FUND FRAUD

2

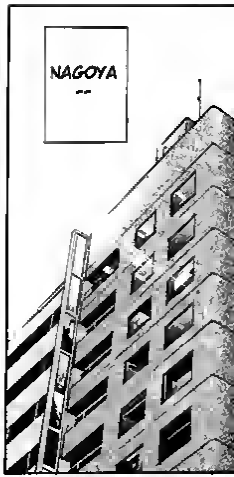

THEIR RINGLEADER IS A SELF-CLAIMED FORMER NOBLE, THE "GOZEN."

THE STAGE IS THE POST AICHI WORLD EXPO CENTRAL JAPAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT...
THIS GROUP HAS SEVEN SWINDLERS IN ALL

.....
THESE TWO ARE CLOSEST TO THE GOZEN, AND ARE AT THE CENTER OF THE GROUP.
HIS SUBORDINATES INCLUDE "A DRIVER" AND "A BUTLER"..
BESIDES THEM, THERE'S ALSO "A FORMER POLITICAL SECRETARY," "A SELF-CLAIMED GENECON CONSULTANT," "AN EMBASSY EMPLOYEE"
AND "THE CHAIRWOMAN OF THE EURO-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION" --THESE FOUR
WORK IN COLLUSION TO MAKE THEIR FRAUD MORE BELIEVABLE
3
AND THEIR GOAL IS
TO DEVOUR "SUGIMORI STEEL," A COMPANY LOOKING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CENTRAL JAPAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT...
THEIR ASSETS TOTAL ROUGHLY 200 MILLION YEN.
200 MILLION YEN... I GUESS THATS A PRETTY GOOD AMOUNT.

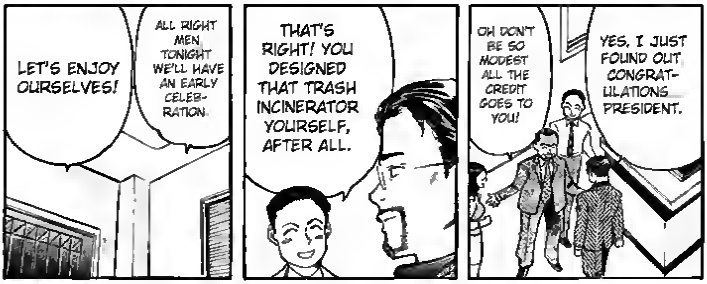
WELL... IF IT WERE ME, EVEN IF I HAD 200 MILLION YEN.
I'D NEVER USE SUCH A SILLY TITLE AS "A FORMER NOBLE."

THANK YOU VERY MUCH! YES!!
--YES, YES!
SIGNBOARD
7F SUGIMORI RECYCLING
6F NANCY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
5F YAMAKAWADOU ENTERPRISE
4F
4
GOOD NEWS!
HEY EVERYONE, LISTEN UP--!


NAGOYA
--

REMEMBER OUR PROPOSAL FOR THE CENTRAL JAPAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT? YOU KNOW, THAT NEW TRASH INCINERATOR PROJECT!!
WELL GUESS WHAT? SUGIMORI STEEL, OUR PARENT COMPANY, IS EAGER TO GO THROUGH WITH IT. THEY'RE DEVELOPING A PLAN NOW
SERIOUSLY --?!
THE PERSON IN CHARGE SAYS IT'LL BE OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED NEXT WEEK!
HEY, WHERE DID THE KEY MAN OF THIS PROJECT GO?!
SO THERE YOU ARE! THE PRESIDENT IS LOOKING FOR YOU!
WHAT IS IT?
WE JUST GOT A CALL FROM HQ. THEY'VE APPROVED THAT TRASH INCINERATOR PROJECT YOU PLANNED!!
WELL, IF IT ISN'T OUR COMPANY'S SAVIOR!!
SIMPLY AMAZING. DID YOU HEAR THE NEWS?

SHIRAISHI-SAN!


LET'S ENJOY OURSELVES!
ALL RIGHT MEN. TONIGHT WE'LL HAVE AN EARLY CELEBRATION.
THAT'S RIGHT! YOU DESIGNED THAT TRASH INCINERATOR YOURSELF, AFTER ALL.
OH DON'T BE SO MODEST ALL THE CREDIT GOES TO YOU!
YES, I JUST FOUND OUT. CONGRATULATIONS PRESIDENT.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHY A BRILLIANT WORKER LIKE YOU WOULD JOIN A SUBCONTRACTING FIRM...
SHIRAISHI-KUN, IT'S ONLY BEEN A FEW MONTHS SINCE YOU JOINED, RIGHT?
--MAN, YOU REALLY SURPRISE ME!
MUSIC

TO TELL THE TRUTH, IT'S NOT JUST US OUR PARENT COMPANY HAS A BAD REPUTATION WITH THE OTHER AFFILIATE SUBCONTRACTING FIRMS AS WELL...
BUT THANKS TO YOU, SUGIMORI STEEL MIGHT CHANGE ITS ATTITUDE TOWARDS US A LITTLE IF THIS TRASH INCINERATOR PROJECT GOES THROUGH.
OF COURSE, WE'LL HAVE THEM SIGN THE CONTRACT WITH YOU, THE DEVELOPER OF THIS PROJECT.
I'M PRETTY SURE THE TECHNOLOGY BEHIND THAT INCINERATOR OF YOURS IS PATENTED. JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME... I RECKON THEY'LL GIVE YOU A COUPLE OF HUNDRED MILLION YEN FOR IT.
7
I HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO SPEND THAT MUCH CASH...
YEAH, IT'S NOT AN AMOUNT OFFICE WORKERS LIKE US ARE USED TO.
BUT I CAN IMAGINE YOU WITH THAT KIND OF MONEY, SHIRAISHI-SAN.
GOES WITHOUT SAYING HE'S OUT OF YOUR CLASS.
BY THE WAY, SPEAKING OF THE PARENT COMPANY...

!
APPARENTLY, THE EXECUTIVES WERE RECENTLY APPROACHED BY A CERTAIN ORGANIZATION THAT WAS INTERESTED IN LENDING 2 BILLION YEN AT A VERY LOW INTEREST...
WELL, IT'S JUST A RUMOR I HEARD FROM A FRIEND THERE.
WHAT IS IT?
A CERTAIN ORGANIZATION?
I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS. IT'S JUST A RUMOR I HEARD.
BUT IT SEEMS THAT SOME FORMER NOBLE IS INVOLVED.
HMMMM... YOU SEE, OUR PARENT COMPANY IS BETTING ITS FUTURE ON THAT CENTRAL JAPAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
AND THEY'RE REALLY STRUGGLING TO FIND THE FUNDING FOR IT--
.....
SO, WILL SUGIMORI STEEL ACCEPT THE LOAN?

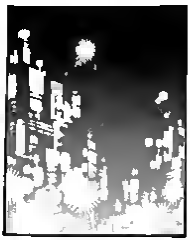
S2S

I BET THEY'D DO ANY-THING FOR A LOAN OF 200 MILLION YEN.

WELL THEN, GOOD NIGHT--

OH COME ON, STOP THAT.
SHIRAISHI-KUN, EVEN IF YOU GET RICH, PLEASE DON'T ABANDON US

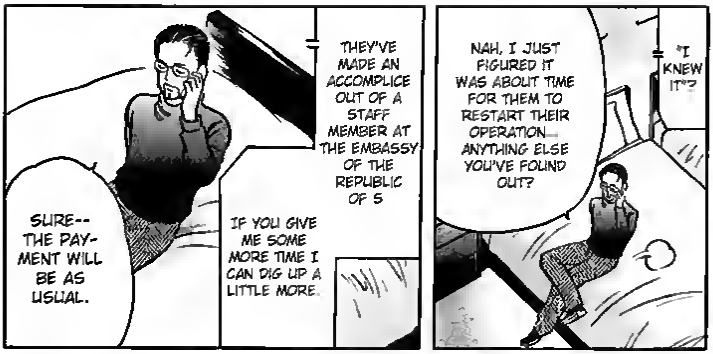
Beep
Beep



IT'S ME.
--YES

FIND OUT WHO IS THE LEADER OF THE ORGANIZATION THAT APPROACHED SUGIMORI STEEL.
APPARENTLY, HE CALLED HIMSELF A FORMER NOBLE AND OFFERED TO LEND THEM MONEY ON VERY GOOD TERMS.
Ramia...

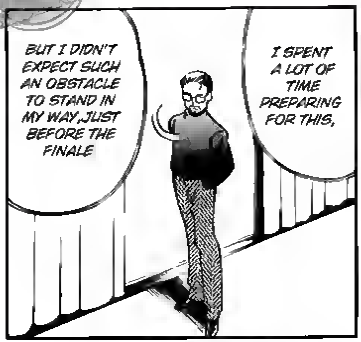
--YES.
IT'S ME...
THE ORGANIZATION THAT APPROACHED SUGIMORI STEEL IS THE EURO-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION.
THE ONE WHO RESENTED THE DEAL WAS YAMAWAKI, A FORMER OLITICAL SECRETARY
I KNEW IT, "GOZEN"...!
AND SAIONJI.

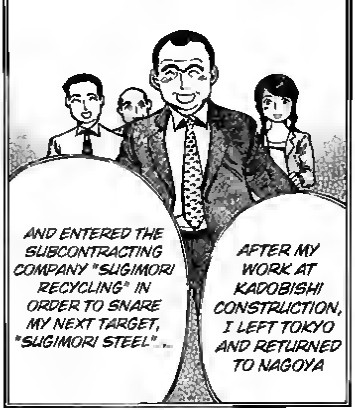

THEY'VE MADE AN ACCOMPLICE OUT OF A STAFF MEMBER AT THE EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF S
IF YOU GIVE ME SOME MORE TIME I CAN DIG UP A LITTLE MORE.
SURE-- THE PAY-MENT WILL BE AS USUAL.
"I KNEW IT"?
NAH, I JUST FIGURED IT WAS ABOUT TIME FOR THEM TO RESTART THEIR OPERATION... ANYTHING ELSE YOU'VE FOUND OUT?

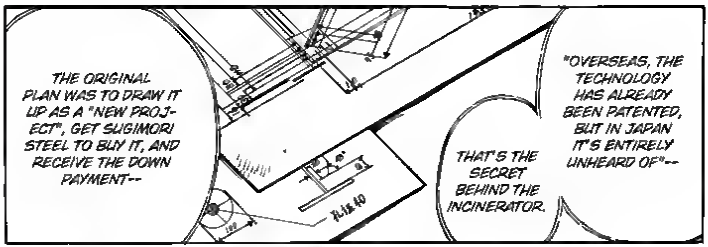
.....

HAS ALSO BEEN TARGETED BY THE GOZEN'S M-FUND FRAUD GROUP...!!

WHAT AN UNEXPECTED TURN OF EVENTS.
TO THINK THAT THE COM-PANY I'M TARGETING SUGIMORI STEEL--

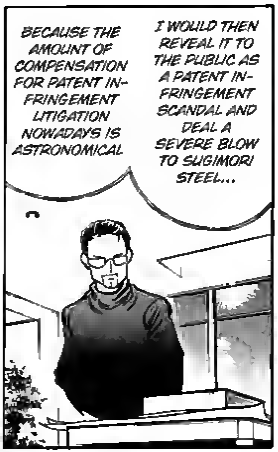

BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT SUCH AN OBSTACLE TO STAND IN MY WAY, JUST BEFORE THE FINALE
I SPENT A LOT OF TIME PREPARING FOR THIS,


AND ENTERED THE SUBCONTRACTING COMPANY "SUGIMORI RECYCLING" IN ORDER TO SNARE MY NEXT TARGET, "SUGIMORI STEEL"...
AFTER MY WORK AT KADOBISHI CONSTRUCTION, I LEFT TOKYO AND RETURNED TO NAGOYA


THE ORIGINAL PLAN WAS TO DRAW IT UP AS A "NEW PROJECT", GET SUGIMORI STEEL TO BUY IT, AND RECEIVE THE DOWN PAYMENT--
THAT'S THE SECRET BEHIND THE INCINERATOR.
"OVERSEAS, THE TECHNOLOGY HAS ALREADY BEEN PATENTED, BUT IN JAPAN IT'S ENTIRELY UNHEARD OF"--

12

"GOZEN" ...!!
AS A LATECOMER, HOW DARE YOU SNATCH MY PREY FROM ME!!

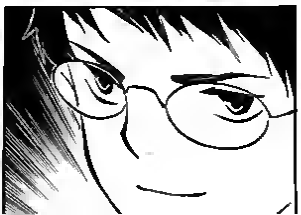

BECAUSE THE AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT LITIGATION NOWADAYS IS ASTRONOMICAL
I WOULD THEN REVEAL IT TO THE PUBLIC AS A PATENT INFRINGEMENT SCANDAL AND DEAL A SEVERE BLOW TO SUGIMORI STEEL...

NOW THEN,
HOW SHOULD I HANDLE THIS?
TOKYO, SUGIMORI STEEL --HQ.
I WOULD LIKE TO SEE PRESIDENT SUGIMORI
DO YOU HAVE AN APPOINT-MENT?
JUST TELL HIM I'M FROM THE EURO-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION
HE SHOULD UNDERSTAND.

PROMOTES INTERNATIONAL GOODWILL FROM AN OFFICE IN KIOI TOWN
ON THE OUTSIDE, THE "EURO-JAPAN INTER-NATIONAL FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION"
I'LL START WITH HER.
THE ONLY FLOWER, YOU SAY... NICE.
HER NAME'S AMAMI
IT'S CHAIR-WOMAN IS THE ONLY FLOWER IN THE GOZEN'S GROUP
THEIR OFFICE ONLY HAS A PHONE...
BUT IN TRUTH, IT'S AN EMPTY ORGANIZATION WITH ALMOST NO STAFF.

I HEARD YOU'RE FROM THE EURO-JAPAN INTER-NATIONAL FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION.
Sugimori Steei
Executive
Secretary

SINCE THE PRESIDENT IS CURRENTLY AWAY, HIS SECRETARY WILL SEE YOU.
OKAY.

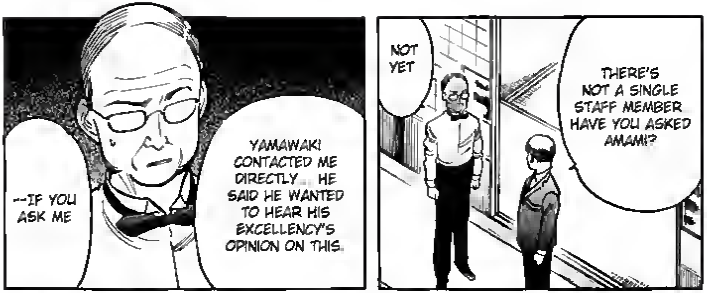


I BELIEVE YOU'VE ALREADY MET WITH AMAMI...
YES, MY NAME IS TASAKI.
I'M SURE YOU'RE AWARE OF THE COMMISSION FEE THAT YOU'LL BE TRANSFERRING AT THE BEGINNING OF NEXT WEEK.
ACTUALLY, I'M HERE TO TELL YOU THAT THERE'S BEEN A SLIGHT CHANGE IN THE PROCEDURE.
15
A SLIGHT CHANGE...?
-- YES, WE'RE USING A DIFFERENT BANK, INSTEAD OF THE ONE WE ASKED YOU TO USE FOR OUR COMMISSION PAYMENT BEFORE.
--THIS IS

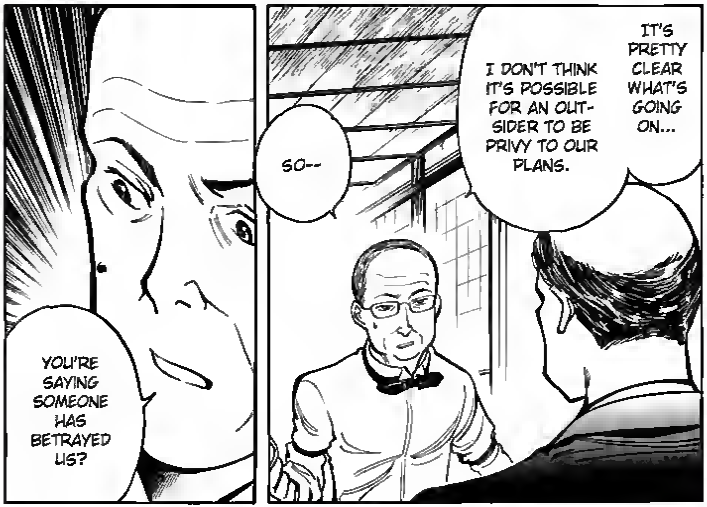
.....
PLEASE TRANSFER THE COMMISSION OF 100 MILLION YEN INTO THIS ACCOUNT.
THE NEW ACCOUNT.
Sugimori Steel President Sugimori Ichirou
WHAT? SOMEONE FROM THE GOZEN'S STAFF DROPPED BY?
16
Rrrring
MAYBE WE SHOULD CALL THEM TO CHECK?
THIS SOUNDS SUSPICIOUS.
HMM?
YES, HE SAID THE BANK ACCOUNT HAS BEEN CHANGED...

WHAT?
--YES, YAMAWAKI HERE.
WELL, IF IT ISN'T PRESIDENT SUGIMORI! WE APPRECIATE YOUR PATRONAGE--
Former Political Secretary Yamawaki Satoru
ATAMI
BUT THE THING IS, SUGIMORI STEEL CALLED YAMAWAKI TO REPORT THAT SOMEONE CAME OVER WITH THAT MESSAGE.
I KNOW ...!
THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT.
A CHANGE IN ACCOUNT, YOU SAY?!
SAIONJI FAMILY BUTLER MARUYAMA YOSHIO
Saionji Family Driver Kadosawa Eigo

BUT AS WE ALL KNOW...
APPARENTLY, THE PERSON SAID HE WAS A STAFF MEMBER OF THE EURO-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION--

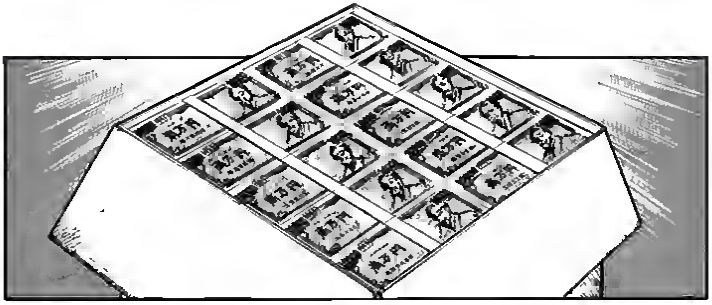

--IF YOU ASK ME
YAMAWAKI CONTACTED ME DIRECTLY. HE SAID HE WANTED TO HEAR HIS EXCELLENCY'S OPINION ON THIS.
NOT YET
THERE'S NOT A SINGLE STAFF MEMBER HAVE YOU ASKED AMAMI?

18


YOU'RE SAYING SOMEONE HAS BETRAYED US?
SO--
I DON'T THINK IT'S POSSIBLE FOR AN OUTSIDER TO BE PRIVY TO OUR PLANS.
IT'S PRETTY CLEAR WHAT'S GOING ON...

ANYWAY
.....

--AND ONE MORE THING. WE'LL HAVE TO SWITCH THE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT TO THE ORIGINAL ACCOUNT ALSO.
GET IN TOUCH WITH AMAMI AND VERIFY THE MATTER. OF COURSE SHE'LL SAY SHE KNOWS NOTHING.
SO THAT MEANS I SHOULD MAKE THE PAYMENT INTO THE ACCOUNT WE ORIGINALLY DECIDED ON?
THE CHANGE IN ACCOUNT WAS A MISTAKE ON OUR PART...
Former Political Secretary Yamawaki Satoru
MY SINCERE APOLOGIES FOR THE CONFUSION.
PRESIDENT SUGIMORI! THANK YOU FOR COMING ALL THIS WAY...
YES...
!!



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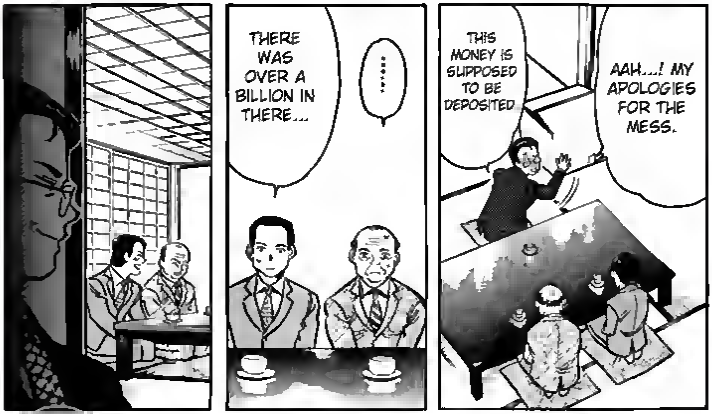
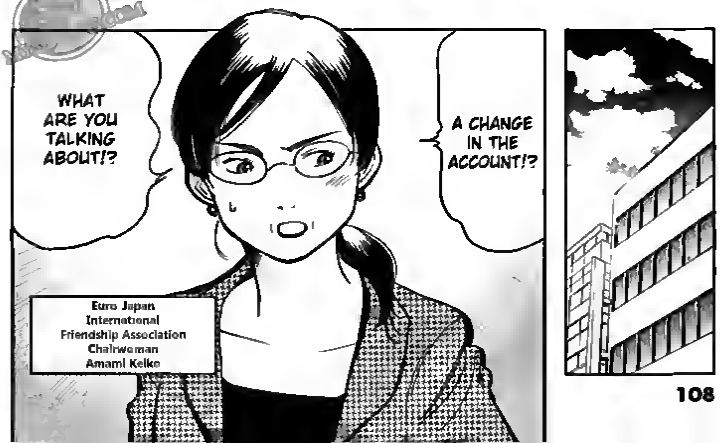

THERE WAS OVER A BILLION IN THERE...
.....
THIS MONEY IS SUPPOSED TO BE DEPOSITED
AAH...! MY APOLOGIES FOR THE MESS.


WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
A CHANGE IN THE ACCOUNT!?
Euro Japan International Friendship Association Chairwoman Amami Keiko

I DON'T KNOW ANYONE CALLED TASAKI!
IN THE FIRST PLACE, I'M SURE YOU KNOW VERY WELL THAT WE DON'T HAVE ANY STAFF MEMBERS!
BUT THAT MAN MENTIONED HE WAS FROM YOUR ORGANIZATION.
YOU...
YOU'RE NOT SUSPECTING ME, ARE YOU?!
21
ARE YOU SURE HE'S CLEAN?
FOR EXAMPLE, HOW ABOUT THAT EMBASSY STAFF MEMBER YOU BROUGHT HERE.
NO, I'M NOT SAYING THAT...!
ARE YOU SUGGESTING THAT I SENT THAT MAN TO GET ALL THE MONEY FOR MYSELF?! DON'T MESS WITH ME!!

IT'S ME.
YES.
Rrrring
WHY DON'T YOU ASK HIM YOURSELF!
HOW SHOULD I KNOW!
22
WHICH WAS ONLY FILLED WITH PAPER AT THE BOTTOM. .
IN FACT, THEIR EYES WERE FIXATED ON THAT BOX OF MONEY
I SHOWED THEM THOSE SAVINGS CERTIFICATES*, AFTER ALL.
THEY DIDN'T SEEM TO SUSPECT ANYTHING.
THE PAIR FROM SUGIMORI STEEL HAS JUST LEFT.
NOW I'M CURIOUS ABOUT WHO SENT HIM.
.....
WHAT SHALL WE DO ABOUT THIS TASAKI PERSON?
SUGIMORI STEEL HAS BEEN DEALT WITH.

*THE ACT OF GETTING A CERTIFICATE MADE WHEN DEPOSITING MONEY INTO A BANK, THEN WITHDRAWING IT TO KEEP IN ANOTHER BANK. BY DOING THIS REPEATEDLY, IT'S POSSIBLE TO SHOW THAT YOU HAVE A LOT OF MONEY IN DIFFERENT BANKS WHEN WITHDRAWING THE MONEY, IT'S IMPORTANT TO TELL THE BANK THAT YOU'VE LOST THE CERTIFICATE

HIS RECKLESS STYLE OF DOING THINGS WILL IMMEDIATELY REACH OUR EARS...
IF YOU TAKE A LOOK AT HOW CHILDISH HIS METHODS ARE, IT'S QUITE CLEAR THAT HE'S NOT A PROBLEM

UNDERSTOOD.
THERE'S NO NEED TO CARE FOR RATS

EVERYTHING IS ON TRACK.
SUGIMORI STEEL WILL DEPOSIT THE 100 MILLION YEN NEXT WEEK AS PLANNED.

24

Kurosagi (the black swindler)

Written by Takeshi Natsuhara, Illustrated by Kuromaru

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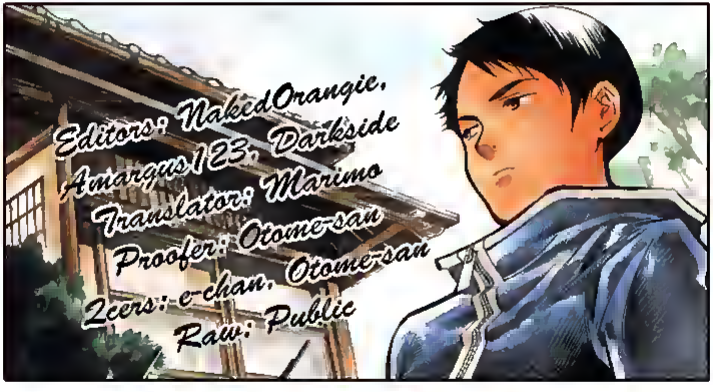

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TOKYO, SUGIMORI STEEL--

WHO ARE YOU...
I'M FROM THE TAIYOU ECONOMIST. I WONDER IF WE COULD TALK--

PRESIDENT SUGIMORI?

HAVE HAD NUMEROUS DISCUSSIONS?
IS IT TRUE THAT THE FRAUD RING AND THE OWNERS OF SUGIMORI STEEL

ACTUALLY, I HAPPENED TO HEAR A RUMOR ABOUT A LARGE FRAUD RING...
IF IT'S FOR AN INTERVIEW, FIRST SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT WITH MY SECRETARY.

A FRAUD RING...!?
CHAPTER 49 ODA REFLUX FUND FRAUD III

2

HEY, HE TOLD YOU TO TALK TO HIS SECRETARY!
I'M INTERESTED IN YOUR RESPONSE --

MY SOURCES TELL ME THAT YOU, THE PRESIDENT, HAVE ALSO ATTENDED THESE MEETINGS...

THEN ONE LAST QUESTION!
APPARENTLY, THE LEADER OF THIS FRAUD RING IS A MYSTERIOUS "FORMER NOBLE" CALLED THE "GOZEN"...
DO YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW ANY-THING ABOUT THIS "GOZEN" PERSON--
.....
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT! SOMEONE GET RID OF HIM!
ブィーン
3

!?
ゴォォオオ
THE GOZEN..
A FRAUD RING...?!
NAGOYA --
HOW DID HE REACT?
I SEE
WELL, I DIDN'T EXPECT MUCH .. BUT IT'S CERTAIN WE'VE GIVEN HIM A REASON FOR CONCERN.
ON THE SURFACE, HE DIDN'T SEEM TO BE BOTHERED BY WHAT I TOLD HIM
IT SEEMS SOMEONE ELSE IS ALSO TRYING TO HINDER THEM.
BY THE WAY, WHILE INVESTIGATING THE GOZEN'S GROUP, I CAME ACROSS SOMETHING INTERESTING...
4

ANOTHER PERSON...?
THERE'S A MAN WHO APPROACHED THE SECRETARY OF SUGIMORI STEEL, TELLING HIM THAT THE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT FOR THE PAYMENT HAD BEEN CHANGED.
HOWEVER, THE GOZEN'S GROUP BECAME SUSPICIOUS AND IMMEDIATELY INTERVENED IN THE CASE. THUS, SUGIMORI STEEL IS SCHEDULED TO DEPOSIT THE COMMISSION INTO THE ORIGINAL ACCOUNT AT THE BEGINNING OF NEXT WEEK.

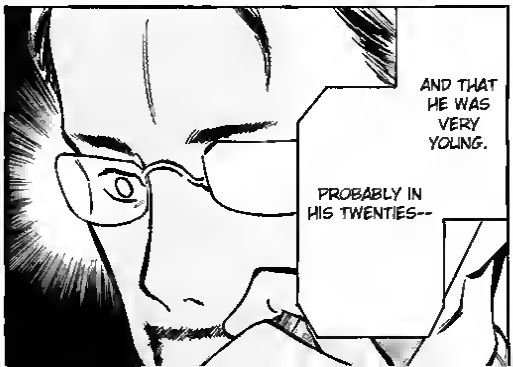
THAT MAN..
DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON HIM?

ACCORDING TO THE RECEPTIONIST AT SUGIMORI STEEL, HE WAS A LITTLE OVER 170 CM--
WITH BLACK HAIR AND GLASSES...

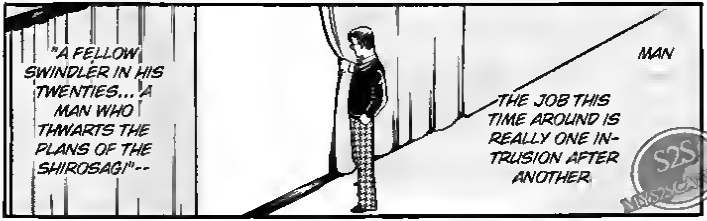
MAYBE HE'S A SWINDLER TOO... IT'S A REALLY AMATEUR TACTIC, THOUGH--
IF HE WERE ONE OF OURS, WOULDN'T HE BE AWARE OF THE GROUP'S MOVES? WHY WOULD ONE SWINDLER INTERFERE WITH ANOTHER?

5

.....


AND THAT HE WAS VERY YOUNG.
PROBABLY IN HIS TWENTIES--

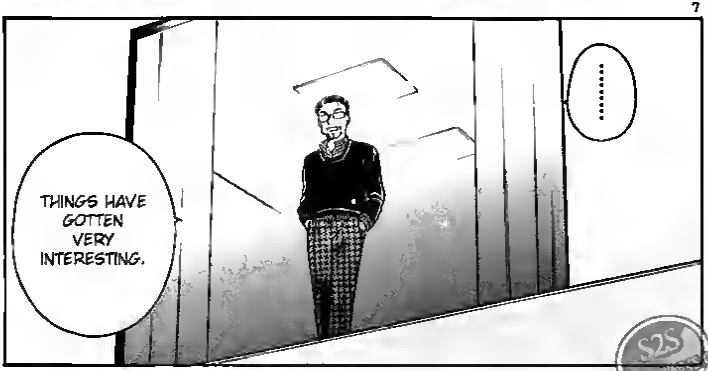
KEEP WATCHING THE GOZEN'S GROUP... AND LET ME KNOW IF THAT YOUNG MAN SHOWS UP AGAIN.
ALL RIGHT.
WH-WHAT IS IT?
AHAHA-HAHA-- NOTHING, NOTHING!
SORRY, IT'S JUST SOMETHING PERSONAL.


"A FELLOW SWINDLER IN HIS TWENTIES... A MAN WHO THWARTS THE PLANS OF THE SHIROSAGI"--
MAN
THE JOB THIS TIME AROUND IS REALLY ONE INTRUSION AFTER ANOTHER

S2S
MANGA

KUROSAKI...!!
I DIDN'T EXPECT TO MEET YOU AT A PLACE LIKE THIS--

IF THAT'S THE CASE, THE REAL FIREWORKS HAVE YET TO COME.
HIS FINAL OBJECTIVE IS TO DEVOUR THE GOZEN'S GROUP---
THAT'S HIS GOAL ...
STIRRING UP THE GOZEN'S GROUP TO RAISE THE TENSION BETWEEN THEM---
SUPPOSING THAT KUROSAKI IS AFTER THE GOZEN'S GROUP
HE HAS TO HAVE A REASON FOR USING SUCH A FOOLISH TACTIC AS "FABRICATING A CHANGE IN THE DEPOSIT ACOUNT."



S2S
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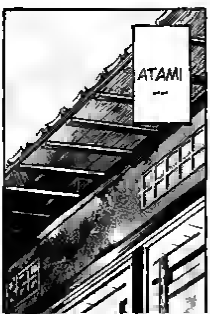
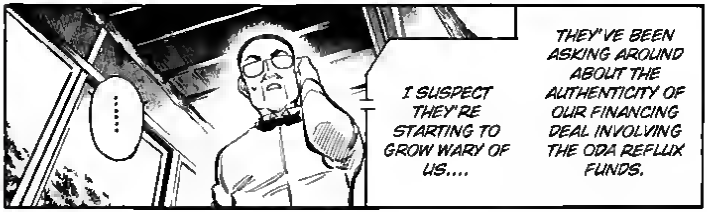


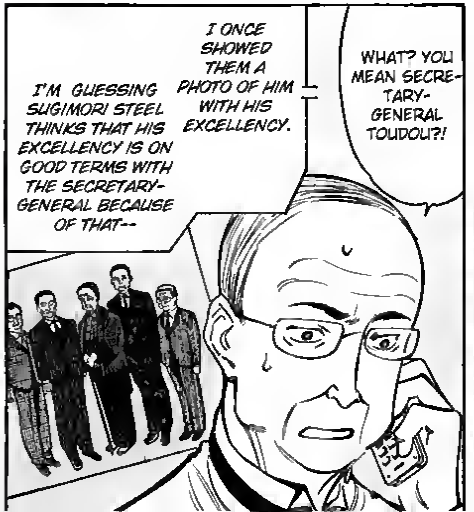
POLITI-
CIANS
...?

HAVE BEEN
CONTACTING
ALL SORTS OF
POLITICIANS
AND BUSINESS
LEADERS
LATELY.
APPARENTLY
THE
PEOPLE AT
SUGIMORI
STEEL

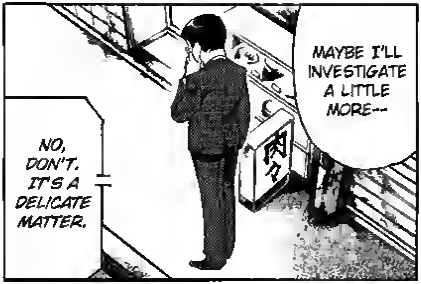
YEAH...
IT'S A STORY I
JUST HEARD
FROM AN OLD
COLLEAGUE OF
MINE.


.....
I SUSPECT
THEY'RE
STARTING TO
GROW WARY OF
US....
THEY'VE BEEN
ASKING AROUND
ABOUT THE
AUTHENTICITY OF
OUR FINANCING
DEAL INVOLVING
THE ODA REFLUX
FUNDS.

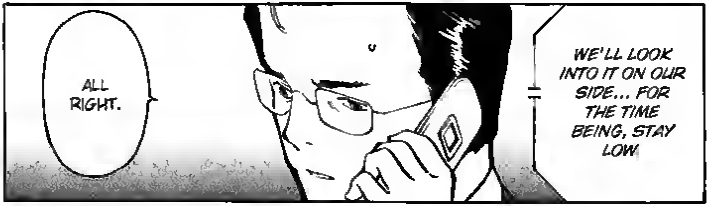
8

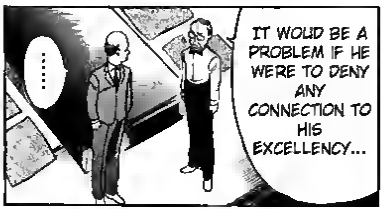

I'M GUESSING
SUGIMORI STEEL
THINKS THAT HIS
EXCELLENCY IS ON
GOOD TERMS WITH
THE SECRETARY-
GENERAL BECAUSE
OF THAT--
I ONCE
SHOWED
THEM A
PHOTO OF HIM
WITH HIS
EXCELLENCY.
WHAT? YOU
MEAN SECRE-
TARY-
GENERAL
TOUDOU?!

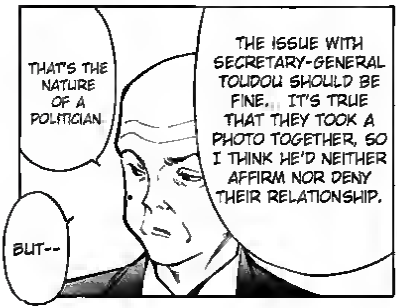
IT SEEMS
LIKE THEY'LL
BE MEETING
WITH THE
SECRETARY-
GENERAL OF
THE
DEMOCRAT-
IC-LIBERAL
PARTY.
--AND
ONE
MORE
THING.


MAYBE I'LL INVESTIGATE A LITTLE MORE--
NO, DON'T. IT'S A DELICATE MATTER.

..WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

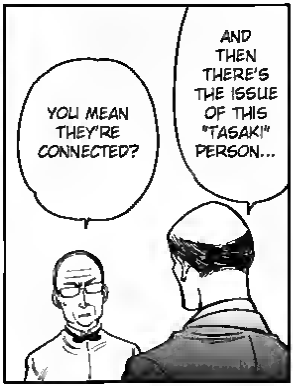

ALL RIGHT.
WE'LL LOOK INTO IT ON OUR SIDE... FOR THE TIME BEING, STAY LOW.


IT WOULD BE A PROBLEM IF HE WERE TO DENY ANY CONNECTION TO HIS EXCELLENCY...
.....

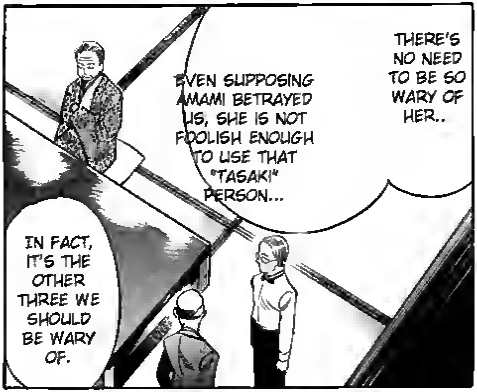

THE ISSUE WITH SECRETARY-GENERAL TOUDOU SHOULD BE FINE. IT'S TRUE THAT THEY TOOK A PHOTO TOGETHER, SO I THINK HE'D NEITHER AFFIRM NOR DENY THEIR RELATIONSHIP.
THAT'S THE NATURE OF A POLITICIAN
BUT--

SUGIMORI DID WHAT...?!
Saionji Family Butler
Kadosawa Eigo

SOMETHING'S GOING ON BEHIND OUR BACKS...
I SUSPECT


YOU MEAN THEY'RE CONNECTED?
AND THEN THERE'S THE ISSUE OF THIS "TASAKI" PERSON...

SO IT'S ALL AMAMI'S DOING...?!


THERE'S NO NEED TO BE SO WARY OF HER..
EVEN SUPPOSING AMAMI BETRAYED US, SHE IS NOT FOOLISH ENOUGH TO USE THAT "TASAKI" PERSON...
IN FACT, IT'S THE OTHER THREE WE SHOULD BE WARY OF.

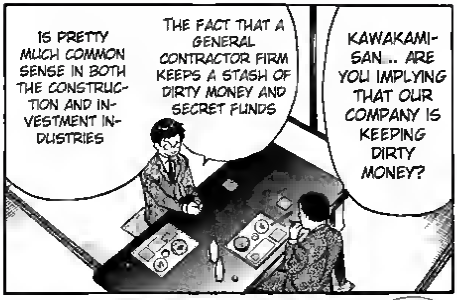
-- REGARDING AMAMI

YAMAWAKI SEEMS ANXIOUS ABOUT THE SITUATION, BUT HE MAY BE FAKING IT... IT'S EASY FOR HIM TO MANIPULATE THINGS BECAUSE HE'S THE CONTACT PERSON.
AS FOR THE EMBASSY STAFF MEMBER WE BROUGHT OVER, I'M SURE HE'D BETRAY US AT ONCE IF THE TABLES WERE TO TURN.
SAME GOES FOR THAT SELF-CLAIMED GENECON CONSULTANT, SUMINO.
STAY IN TOUCH WITH SUGIMORI STEEL.
IF WE STOP CONTACTING THEM, THE PREY WILL START TO FEEL UNEASY.
OK.
DON'T MENTION THIS TO SUMINO OR THAT EMBASSY EMPLOYEE...
KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON THEM.
.....
<Horse Racing>

DAMN
LOOKS LIKE I'M OUT OF LUCK.
Atlantic Construction Consultant
Sumino Kousuke
I'M SO SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!
THAT'S RIGHT...
EXCUSE ME... DO YOU HAPPEN TO BE SUMINO-SAN?
NO, PLEASE.
FORGIVE ME... I DIDN'T EXPECT SOMEONE SO YOUNG
AAH...
SO YOU'RE KAWAKAMI-SAN FROM LANGLEY CAPITAL!
.....

MY APOLOGIES FOR THAT SUDDEN CALL THE OTHER DAY.
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF FORMALLY.
MY NAME IS KAWAKAMI, FROM LANGLEY CAPITAL'S JAPANESE OFFICE.
I'M SUMINO, A CONSULTANT FROM ATLANTIC CONSTRUCTION.
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU COME ALL THIS WAY... INITIALLY, I PLANNED TO MEET YOU AT YOUR OFFICES.
!
13
OH NO, YOU DON'T HAVE TO.
IT WOULD BE TROUBLESOME FOR ME IF YOU DID!
AS I MENTIONED BRIEFLY OVER THE PHONE...

WE AT LANGLEY CAPITAL ARE A GLOBAL INVESTMENT FIRM BASED IN AMERICA.
OUR JAPANESE OFFICE IS IN SHINAGAWA.
WE CONTACTED YOU TO INQUIRE WHETHER YOU'D CONSIDER LETTING US TAKE OVER MANAGING THE ASSETS OF ATLANTIC CONSTRUCTION, WHERE YOU'RE A CONSULTANT.
AS I SAID YESTERDAY, WE DON'T PRESENTLY HAVE SUCH ASSETS.
AND EVEN IF WE DID, THERE'S NO WAY A SELF-PROCLAIMED CONSULTANT LIKE ME WOULD HAVE ACCESS TO THEM...
POINT TAKEN... INDEED THERE ARE NO ASSETS FOR INVESTMENT IN THE COMPANY'S BOOKS.
--HOWEVER, I'M CERTAIN YOU DO POSSESS UNREGISTERED ASSETS.
!


KAWAKAMI-SAN... ARE YOU IMPLYING THAT OUR COMPANY IS KEEPING DIRTY MONEY?
THE FACT THAT A GENERAL CONTRACTOR FIRM KEEPS A STASH OF DIRTY MONEY AND SECRET FUNDS IS PRETTY MUCH COMMON SENSE IN BOTH THE CONSTRUCTION AND INVESTMENT INDUSTRIES

I'M NOT HERE TO POINT MY FINGER AT YOU FOR KEEPING DIRTY MONEY.
I JUST WANT TO REMIND YOU THAT... ASSETS ONLY DIMINISH WITH TIME IF THEY'RE KEPT STAGNANT.

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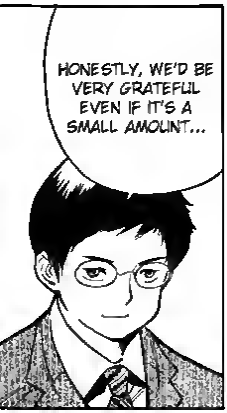
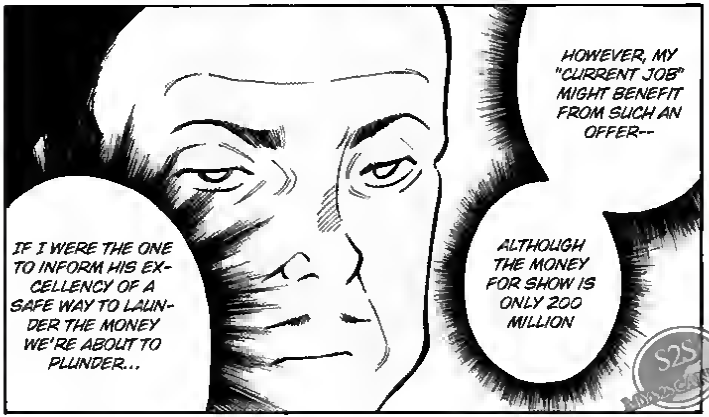
15



IF YOU INVEST IN US, IT'S POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE FOR THE MONEY TO BE RETURNED TO YOU ANY TIME YOU WANT.
YOU KNOW, I DON'T HEAR A LOT OF GOOD NEWS REGARDING FOREIGN INVESTMENT LATELY...

OF COURSE, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO USE THE COMPANY'S DIRTY MONEY...
THIS DEAL... IF I PLAY MY CARDS RIGHT, IT MIGHT TURN OUT TO BE VERY PROFITABLE.


IF I WERE THE ONE TO INFORM HIS EXCELLENCY OF A SAFE WAY TO LAUNDER THE MONEY WE'RE ABOUT TO PLUNDER...
ALTHOUGH THE MONEY FOR SHOW IS ONLY 200 MILLION
HOWEVER, MY "CURRENT JOB" MIGHT BENEFIT FROM SUCH AN OFFER--

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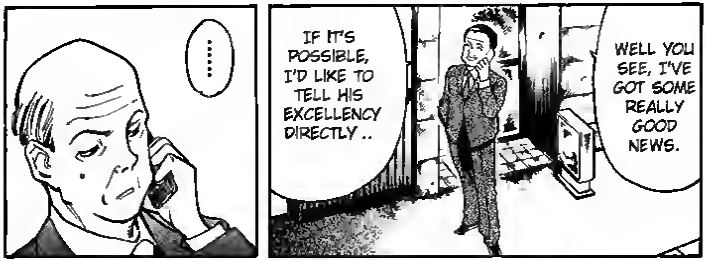
Rrring
Beep
Beep
YES.
AH, HELLO...

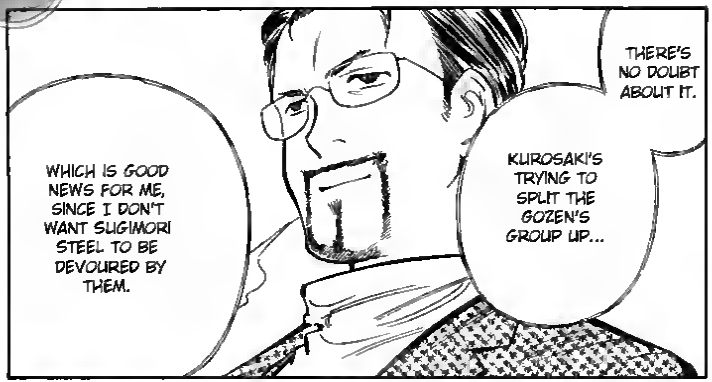
DO YOU HAVE TIME TO TALK?
IT'S ME, SUMINO.


.....
IF IT'S POSSIBLE, I'D LIKE TO TELL HIS EXCELLENCY DIRECTLY..
WELL YOU SEE, I'VE GOT SOME REALLY GOOD NEWS.

18

I'LL CONTACT YOU LATER ON.
--OKAY, LET'S HEAR IT.
I FIGURED THERE'S A SAFER WAY TO KEEP OUR PRECIOUS MONEY SAFE.
HOW ABOUT IT?
<Beep>

……
YOUNG PEOPLE REALLY WORK HARD
SO, YOUR NEXT TARGET IS THE CONSULTANT ……
<Beep>
MY SOURCES SAY THAT SOMEONE RESEMBLING THAT "YOUNG MAN" CAME IN CONTACT WITH THE SELF-PROCLAIMED CONSULTANT, SUMINO
OKAY, THANKS


THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.
KUROSAKI'S TRYING TO SPLIT THE GOZEN'S GROUP UP...
WHICH IS GOOD NEWS FOR ME, SINCE I DON'T WANT SUGIMORI STEEL TO BE DEVOURED BY THEM.

SORRY, KUROSAKI...
BUT I'LL BE RIDING ON THAT WAVE OF YOURS.

Kurosagi (the black swindler)

Written by Takeshi Matsumura
Illustrated by Kuromaru

KUROSAGI CHAPTER 49
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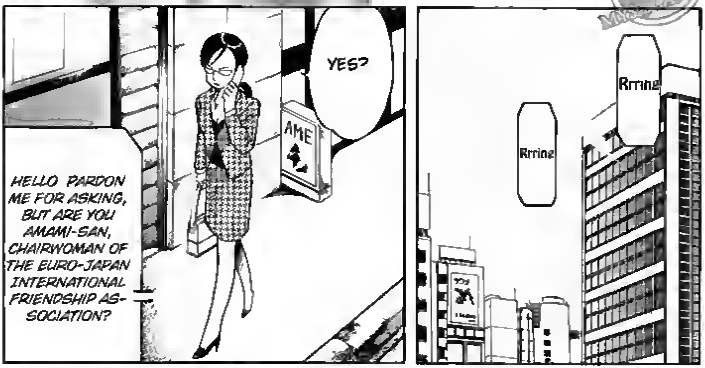
YES?
AME
HELLO. PARDON ME FOR ASKING, BUT ARE YOU AMAMI-SAN, CHAIRWOMAN OF THE EURO-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION?
Rrring
Rrring

SUGIMORI RECYCLING...
IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, YOU'RE A SUBSIDIARY COMPANY OF SUGIMORI STEEL?
CHAPTER 50 ODA REFLUX FUND FRAUD IV

YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU SEE, I HAPPENED TO HEAR THAT THE EURO-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION WILL BE PROVIDING FUNDING FOR OUR PARENT COMPANY...

SO SUGIMORI STEEL'S SUBCONTRACTING FIRM IS ASKING FOR FINANCIAL AID...!
WHICH IS WHY I WAS WONDERING IF WE COULD POSSIBLY REQUEST FINANCING TOO--
EVEN THOUGH WE'RE THE ONES WORKING ON-SITE AS THE SUBCONTRACTOR, WE DON'T ACTUALLY SEE VERY MUCH OF THE FUNDS.
ALLOW ME TO TAKE THIS BACK FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION...
L-LET'S SEE...
!
HOW ABOUT IT?
3
I HOPE FOR A FAVORABLE ANSWER.
WHAT SHALL WE DO?
--AND THAT'S THE CASE.

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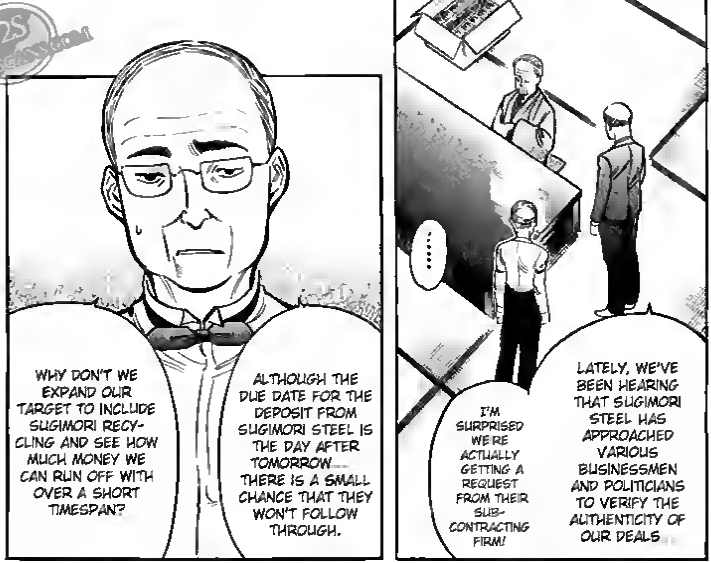
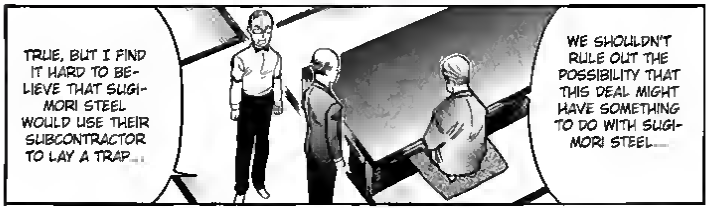
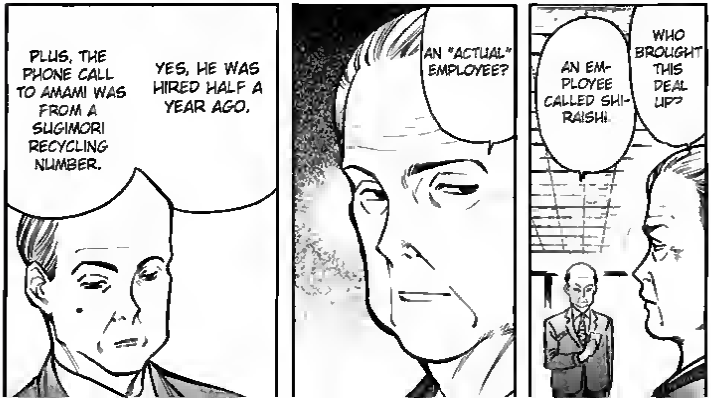

WHY DON'T WE EXPAND OUR TARGET TO INCLUDE SUGIMORI RECYCLING AND SEE HOW MUCH MONEY WE CAN RUN OFF WITH OVER A SHORT TIMESPAN?
ALTHOUGH THE DUE DATE FOR THE DEPOSIT FROM SUGIMORI STEEL IS THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW... THERE IS A SMALL CHANCE THAT THEY WON'T FOLLOW THROUGH.
.....
I'M SURPRISED WE'RE ACTUALLY GETTING A REQUEST FROM THEIR SUB-CONTRACTING FIRM!
LATELY, WE'VE BEEN HEARING THAT SUGIMORI STEEL HAS APPROACHED VARIOUS BUSINESSMEN AND POLITICIANS TO VERIFY THE AUTHENTICITY OF OUR DEALS...

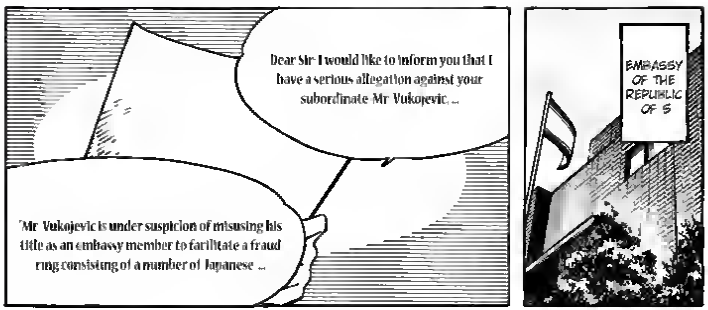

TRUE, BUT I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT SUGIMORI STEEL WOULD USE THEIR SUBCONTRACTOR TO LAY A TRAP...
WE SHOULDN'T RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THIS DEAL MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH SUGIMORI STEEL...


PLUS, THE PHONE CALL TO AMAMI WAS FROM A SUGIMORI RECYCLING NUMBER.
YES, HE WAS HIRED HALF A YEAR AGO.
AN "ACTUAL" EMPLOYEE?
AN EMPLOYEE CALLED SHIRAISHI.
WHO BROUGHT THIS DEAL UP?

WHAT'S MORE, THERE'S NOTHING SUSPICIOUS ABOUT SUGIMORI RECYCLING'S EMPLOYEE...
OUR WORK WITH SUGIMORI STEEL IS EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTIES
SCRAP

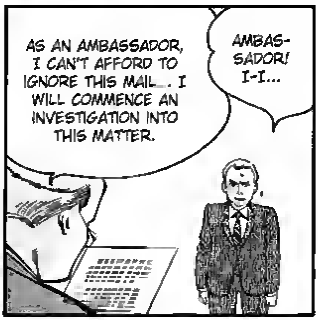
5

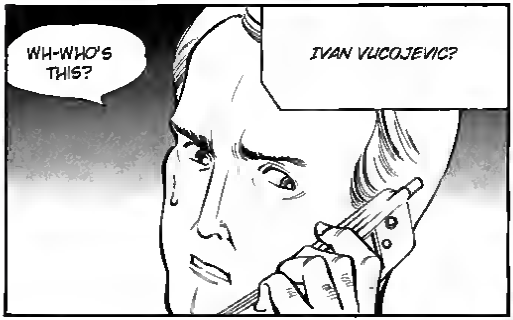
LET'S TRY IT OUT--


Dear Sir I would like to inform you that I have a serious allegation against your subordinate Mr Vukojevic ...
'Mr Vukojevic is under suspicion of misusing his title as an embassy member to facilitate a fraud ring consisting of a number of Japanese ...
EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF S

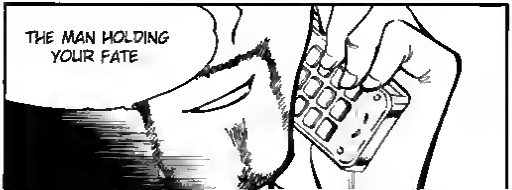
THOSE WERE THE CONTENTS OF THE E-MAIL THAT CAME TO ME THIS MORNING...
DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY IN YOUR DEFENSE, IVAN?

YOU CAN GO NOW.

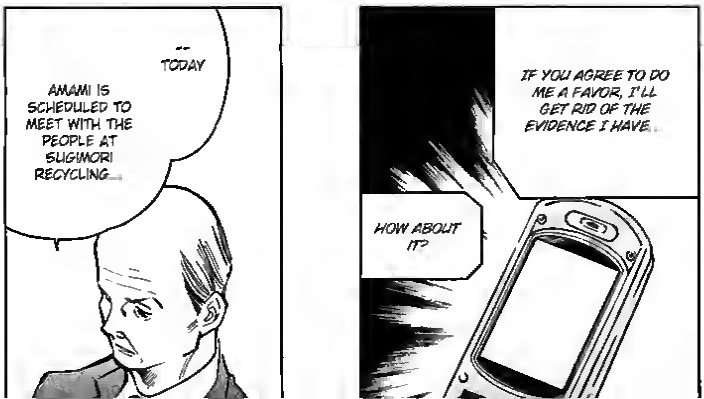

AS AN AMBASSADOR, I CAN'T AFFORD TO IGNORE THIS MAIL... I WILL COMMENCE AN INVESTIGATION INTO THIS MATTER.
AMBAS-SADOR! I-I...

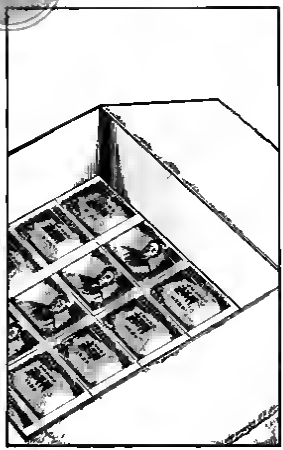

WH-WHO'S THIS?
IVAN VUCOJEVIC?

DAMN... THIS IS BAD! HOW DID SUCH A MESSAGE GET TO THE AMBASSADOR...!!
Rr rri ng


THE MAN HOLDING YOUR FATE

I ACTUALLY HELD BACK IN THAT MAIL.
YOU SHOULD THANK ME FOR NOT SENDING THE AMBASSADOR THE PROOF I HAVE OF YOUR DIRTY DEALINGS.
...ARE YOU THE ONE WHO SENT THAT MAIL?!
WH-WHAT DO YOU WANT...
ALL I WANT IS YOUR HELP.
HEY, IVAN,.. I KNOW HOW YOU LOVE BEING AROUND WOMEN AND ALL, BUT YOU SHOULDN'T TELL YOUR SECRETS TO A HOSTESS.
WOMEN EASILY LET IT SLIP TO GUYS LIKE ME.

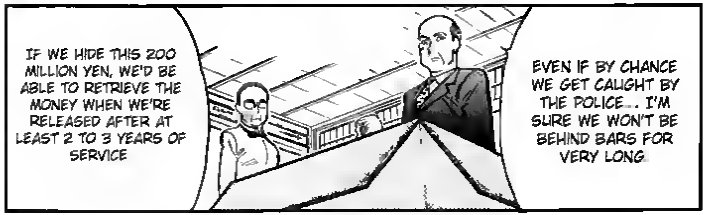

-- TODAY
AMAMI IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH THE PEOPLE AT SUGIMORI RECYCLING...
IF YOU AGREE TO DO ME A FAVOR, I'LL GET RID OF THE EVIDENCE I HAVE..
HOW ABOUT IT?

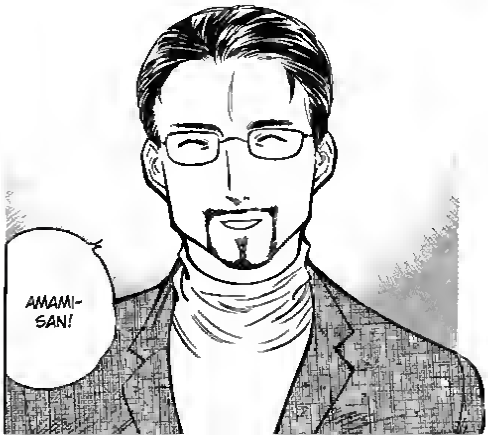


YES, WE NEED TO FIND A SAFE PLACE TO POOL THE 200 MILLION YEN WE USED AS SHOW MONEY.

.....
BUT I THINK WE SHOULD STILL PREPARE IN THE CASE THAT OUR OPERATIONS FAIL COMPLETELY.

8


IF WE HIDE THIS 200 MILLION YEN, WE'D BE ABLE TO RETRIEVE THE MONEY WHEN WE'RE RELEASED AFTER AT LEAST 2 TO 3 YEARS OF SERVICE
EVEN IF BY CHANCE WE GET CAUGHT BY THE POLICE... I'M SURE WE WON'T BE BEHIND BARS FOR VERY LONG.


AMAMI-SAN!

HOW ABOUT WE MEET WITH THE MAN FROM LANGLEY CAPITAL, THAT FOREIGN INVESTMENT FIRM SUMINO WAS TALKING ABOUT...

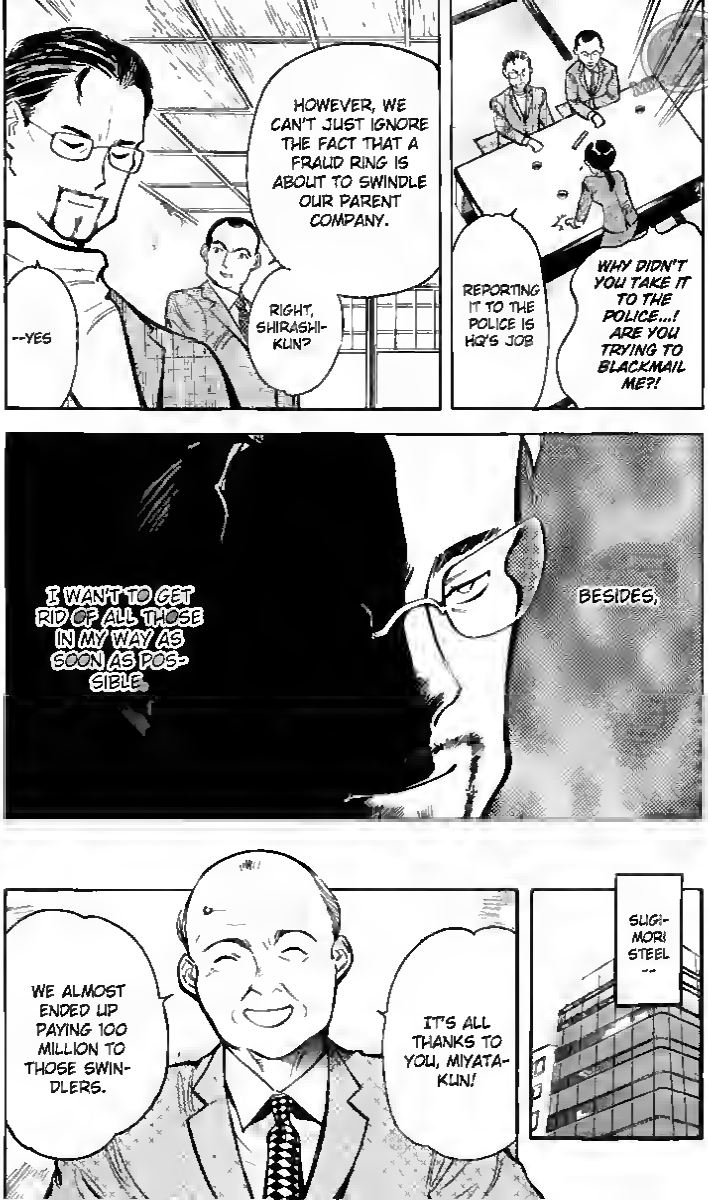
PLEASED TO MEET YOU .. I'M MIYATA FROM SUGIMORI RECYCLING
I'M AMAMI.
LET ME INTRODUCE TO YOU PRESIDENT MIYATA.
THANK YOU FOR THE OTHER DAY!
YES... HONESTLY, I WAS SURPRISED, SINCE IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD OF ODA REFLUX FUNDS
OF OUR ASSSOCIA-TION'S LOAN?
--WELL THEN, I PRESUME YOU'VE LOOKED THROUGH THE DETAILS
WHICH IS WHY WE CAN ONLY LEND TO COMPANIES WITH A REASONABLE LEVEL OF FINANCIAL STRENGTH.
INDEED... THESE FUNDS ARE CURRENTLY BEING KEPT IN A VATICAN CITY BANK, BUT YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYING COMMISSION FEES.
DO YOU HAVE ANY EVIDENCE
TO PROVE THAT WE'LL ACTUALLY RECEIVE THE FUNDING?
HM? YES, THAT'S RIGHT .
WE'LL HAVE TO PAY THAT MONEY IN ADVANCE, RIGHT?

?
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, SHIRAISHI-KUN HERE MANAGED TO GET A TESTIMONY.
I'M WELL AWARE THAT THIS MAY SOUND OFFEN-SIVE
--PRESIDENT MIYATA, HOW IMPERTINENT OF YOU TO SAY THAT.
.....?
SHE REFERS TO HER-SELF AS THE CHAIR-WOMAN OF THE EURO-JAPAN INTER-NATIONAL FRIENDSHIP ORGANIZATION, BUT IT'S ALL A LIE
YES... I'VE ONLY MET WITH THE WOMAN CALLED "AMAMI"...
HIS NAME IS IVAN VUCOJEVIC...
I TAKE IT YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH THIS VOICE?
!?
IMPOS-SIBLE !!
I DON'T KNOW HIM.

!!
YOU MADE HIM A MEMBER OF YOUR FRAUD RING.
HE'S THE EMBASSY EMPLOYEE YOU RECRUITED AT A CLUB IN ROPPONGI.

.....
HOW DID THIS GET OUT IN THE OPEN?!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!!
SHE TOLD ME I WOULD BE PAID 500 THOUSAND YEN IF I WOULD JUST PLAY ALONG AT THE EMBASSY...
IN THIS RECORDING, VUCOJEVIC TESTIFIED THAT HE WAS ASKED BY YOU TO BE AN ACCOMPLICE IN THE FRAUD.

WHY DID YOU MAKE ME LISTEN TO THIS...
YOU PEOPLE ...
...YOU...
VUCOJEVIC SAID THAT THE ONLY PERSON HE MET WAS YOU... THE ONLY ONE THIS IMPLICATES IS YOU
THERE'S NO USE PLAYING DUMB TO COVER UP FOR YOUR COLLEAGUES

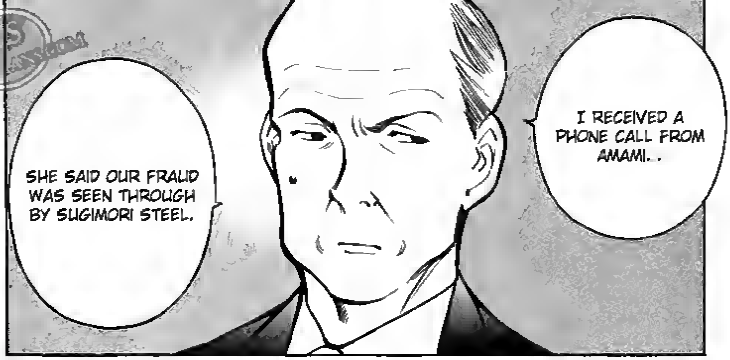

HOWEVER, WE CAN'T JUST IGNORE THE FACT THAT A FRAUD RING IS ABOUT TO SWINDLE OUR PARENT COMPANY.
RIGHT, SHIRASHI-KUN?
--YES
WHY DIDN'T YOU TAKE IT TO THE POLICE...! ARE YOU TRYING TO BLACKMAIL ME?!
REPORTING IT TO THE POLICE IS HQ'S JOB
I WANT TO GET RID OF ALL THOSE IN MY WAY AS SOON AS POS-SIBLE.
BESIDES,
SUGI-MORI STEEL --
IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU, MIYATA-KUN!
WE ALMOST ENDED UP PAYING 100 MILLION TO THOSE SWIN-DLERS.

BUT IT NEVER CROSSED MY MIND THAT IT WAS A FRAUD UNTIL SHIRAISHI-KUN TOLD ME.
TRUE, I WAS AWARE THAT HQ WAS BEING APPROACHED BY A FINANCIAL ORGANIZATION,
NO, PRESIDENT SUGIMORI.
THE REAL HERO IS SHIRAISHI-KUN, HERE.
PLEASE
I SUPPOSE YOU'RE SHIRAISHI-KUN? I HEAR YOU'RE A VERY OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE.
13
I-IS THAT SO, PRESIDENT?!
YOUR PROPOSL HAS BEEN APPROVED. ALL THAT'S LEFT IS MY SIGNATURE.
--WHICH IS WHY
THEN I THINK THIS WOULD BE A LITTLE THANK YOU PRESENT?
APPARENTLY THAT INCINERATOR PROJECT AWAITING CONFIRMATION WAS ALSO YOUR IDEA...

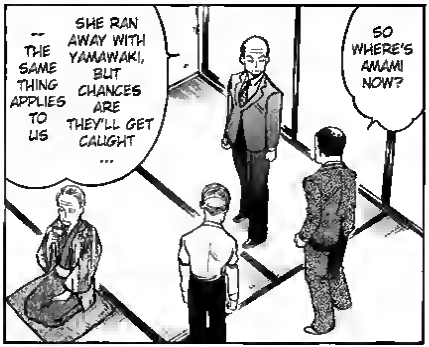
I EXPECT WE'LL BE SIGNING THE OFFICIAL CONTRACTS WITH YOU IN THE NEAR FUTURE, SHIRASHI-KUN.
OH, JUST OFF THE RECORD... THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT IT'S PATENT MATERIAL, SO I'M ESTIMATING THE CONTRACT WILL BE WORTH ABOUT 500 MILLION YEN.
BECAUSE ONCE THE PLAN MATERIALIZES... IT'LL GUARANTEE OUR COMPANY'S EXPANSION, PLUS BILLIONS IN PROFIT.
INDEED
14
I'M VERY HAPPY
THAT YOU LIKE IT, PRESIDENT.
ATAMI
--
YOUR EXCELLENCY, THIS IS KAWAKAMI-SAN FROM LANGLEY CAPITAL'S JAPANESE OFFICE.
IT'S AN HONOR TO MEET YOU.
.....

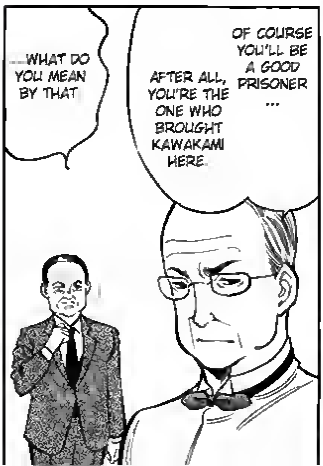
WE HAVE 7 DIFFERENT TYPES OF PLANS FOR OUR CUSTOMERS.
--AS YOU CAN SEE, AT LANGLEY CAPITAL
GOZEN.
YOUR TIME'S NEARLY UP...
AH, SURE ...
EXCUSE ME, KAWAKAMI-SAN -- COULD YOU WAIT HERE FOR A MOMENT?
BY PROVIDING A VARIETY OF INVESTMENT PLANS, WE'RE ABLE TO TAILOR EACH PLAN TO OUR CUSTOMERS' NEEDS BASED ON THEIR DESIRED RETURNS.
.....
WELL, INVESTIGATE ALL YOU WANT.
PROBABLY DISCUSSIONS OR INVESTIGATIONS...

--JUST NOW.
I DIDN'T EXPECT ANY PROGRESS FROM JUST ONE MEETING ANYWAY... I'LL TAKE THIS ONE STEP AT A TIME
THEIR JAPAN OFFICE ONLY HAS OPERATORS, SO THERE'S NO WAY THEY'D KNOW ABOUT THE EMPLOYEES
LANGLEY CAPITAL IS PRACTICALLY DEFUNCT, SINCE THE PRESIDENT OF THEIR AMERICAN HQ HAS BEEN ARRESTED FOR TAX EVASION.


I RECEIVED A PHONE CALL FROM AMAMI..
SHE SAID OUR FRAUD WAS SEEN THROUGH BY SUGIMORI STEEL.

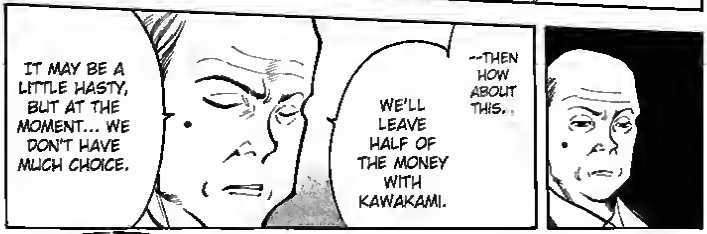
IN OTHER WORDS, WE'RE NOW IN A SITUATION WHERE WE HAVE TO HIDE THE MONEY AS QUICK AS WE CAN
...SO WHAT DO WE DO.


SO WHERE'S AMAMI NOW?
SHE RAN AWAY WITH YAMAWAKI, BUT CHANCES ARE THEY'LL GET CAUGHT ...
...THE SAME THING APPLIES TO US

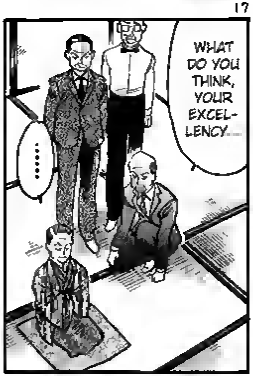

...WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT.
AFTER ALL, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO BROUGHT KAWAKAMI HERE.
OF COURSE YOU'LL BE A GOOD PRISONER ...

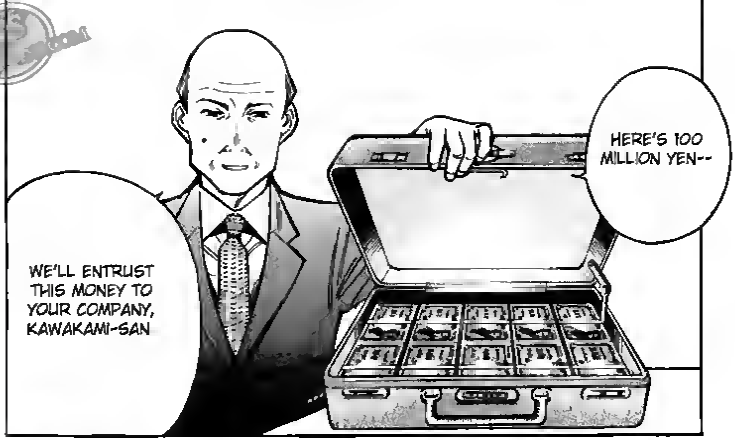
IF I CAN STILL HAVE THAT MONEY AFTER GETTING ARRESTED, I DON'T MIND BEING A GOOD PRISONER.
I THINK WE SHOULD JUST LEAVE THE 200 MILLION TO KAWAKAMI... THAT'S OUR SAFEST BET.

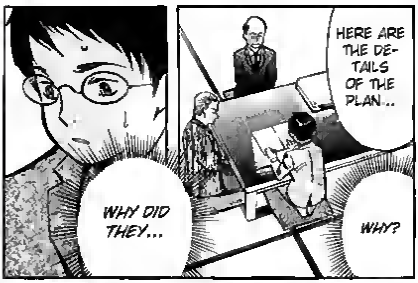
ARE YOU SAYING I'M BETRAYING YOU!!
HELL YEAH! IN THE FIRST PLACE, OUR PLANS FAILED BECAUSE A CERTAIN SOMEBODY BETRAYED US!!
STOP IT, YOU TWO. THIS ISN'T THE TIME FOR BICKERING!
SO DO ANY OF YOU KNOW A BETTER WAY TO PROTECT OUR MONEY?! THERE'S NO TELLING WHEN THE COPS WILL START MOVING!!


--THEN HOW ABOUT THIS...
WE'LL LEAVE HALF OF THE MONEY WITH KAWAKAMI.
IT MAY BE A LITTLE HASTY, BUT AT THE MOMENT... WE DON'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE.

.....


WHAT DO YOU THINK, YOUR EXCELLENCY...
.....


HERE'S 100 MILLION YEN--
WE'LL ENTRUST THIS MONEY TO YOUR COMPANY, KAWAKAMI-SAN

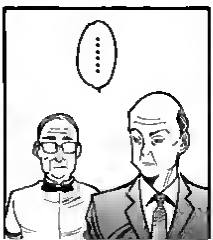

HERE ARE THE DETAILS OF THE PLAN..
WHY?
WHY DID THEY...

WHA
AH, YES ...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH...

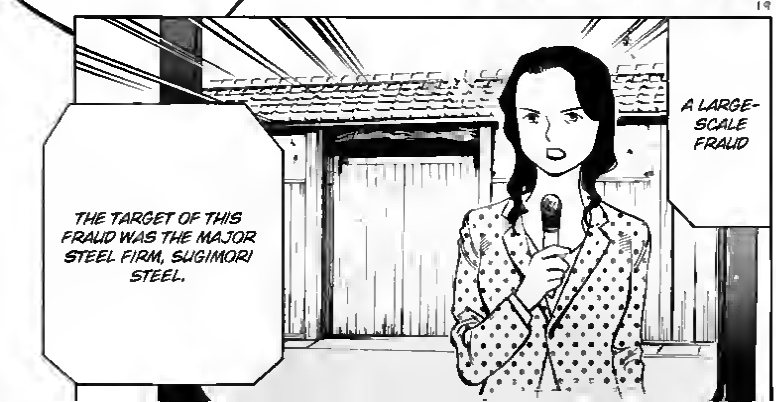
ブロロロ

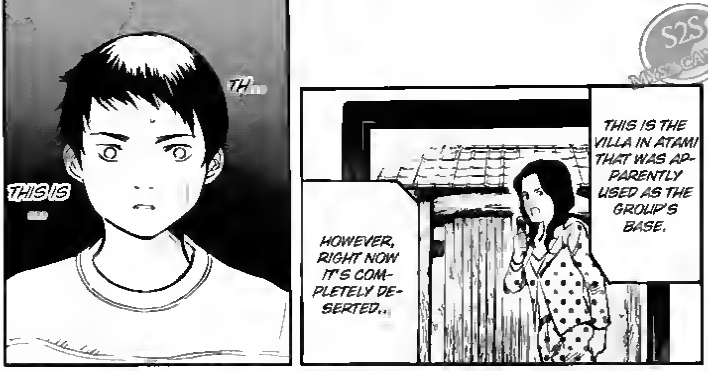
ALL RIGHT THEN, WE'LL BE BORROWING THIS 100 MILLION YEN
YES, WE'LL LEAVE IT IN YOUR CARE

.....!?


.....

HOW STRANGE.
THERE'S NO WAY SUCH A SIMPLE TRAP WOULD MAKE THEM LET GO OF THEIR MONEY SO EASILY...
SOMETHING DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT
THE FACT THEY HANDED OVER ONLY 100 MILLION MEANS THEY DIDN'T TRUST ME COMPLETELY--
BUT IF THAT WERE SO, THEY WOULDN'T GIVE ME A SINGLE YEN IN THE FIRST PLACE
THIS REALLY BOTHERS ME--
Beep


A LARGE-SCALE FRAUD
THE TARGET OF THIS FRAUD WAS THE MAJOR STEEL FIRM, SUGIMORI STEEL.


TH...
THIS IS
...
THIS IS THE VILLA IN ATAMI THAT WAS APPARENTLY USED AS THE GROUP'S BASE.
HOWEVER, RIGHT NOW IT'S COMPLETELY DESERTED..
WHY IS THIS BEING REPORTED ON TV?!
--BUT THEN...
THAT'S WHY THEY WERE EAGER TO HAND ME THE MONEY!
THE GROUP KNEW THAT THIS WOULD HAPPEN..

WHAT THE HELL
JUST HAP-
PENED?

Kurosagi (the black swindler)

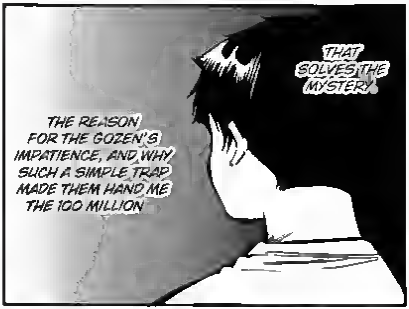
Written by Takeshi Natsuhara, Illustrated by Kuromaru

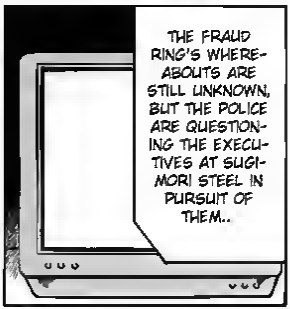
KUROSAGI CHAPTER 50

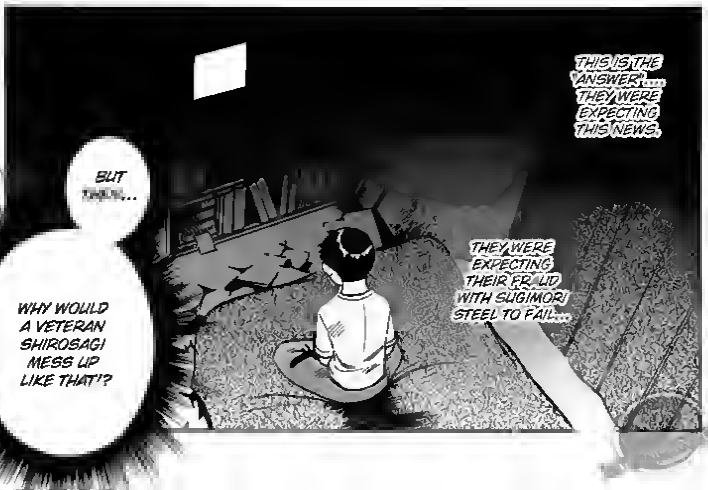
SCANLATED BY S9SCANS ~ HTTP://MYS9SCANS.COM

Plaasa support Takashi Natsuhara aod Kuromaru
by purchaslag this maaga whaa
it's availabla ia your cauotry.

CURRENTLY, IT'S COMPLETELY EMPTY, WITH NOT A SOUL IN SIGHT.
BEHIND ME IS THE ATAMI VILLA THE FRAUD RING IS BELIEVED TO HAVE USED.


THAT SOLVES THE MYSTERY.
THE REASON FOR THE GOZEN'S IMPATIENCE, AND WHY SUCH A SIMPLE TRAP MADE THEM HAND ME THE 100 MILLION


THE FRAUD RING'S WHEREABOUTS ARE STILL UNKNOWN, BUT THE POLICE ARE QUESTIONING THE EXECUTIVES AT SUGIMORI STEEL IN PURSUIT OF THEM..


THIS IS THE ANSWER!... THEY WERE EXPECTING THIS NEWS.
THEY WERE EXPECTING THEIR FRAUD WITH SUGIMORI STEEL TO FAIL...
BUT WHY...
WHY WOULD A VETERAN SHIROSAGI MESS UP LIKE THAT!?

CHAPTER 51: ODA REFLUX FUND FRAUD V

THIS MORNING, TWO PERSONS BELIEVED TO BE PART OF THE FRAUD RING WERE ARRESTED AT HASHIMA STATION.

THE TWO SUSPECTS ARRESTED WERE YAMAWAKI SATORU, A FORMER POLITICAL SECRETARY, AND AMAMI KEIKO, CURRENTLY EMPLOYED...

I'M FIRED...!?

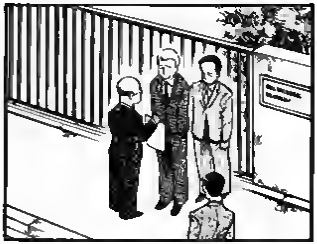
EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF S

HOWEVER, I WANT TO SETTLE THE MATTER BEFORE THAT HAPPENS... YOU WERE FIRED FROM THE EMBASSY YESTERDAY... GOT IT?

APPARENTLY THE POLICE HAVE ISSUED A WARRANT FOR YOUR ARREST... THEY'LL PROBABLY ASK ME TO HAND YOU OVER.

WHA... AMBASS-DOR! YOU CAN'T!!

YOU BROUGHT THIS UPON YOURSELF..
... IVAN
LEAVE.



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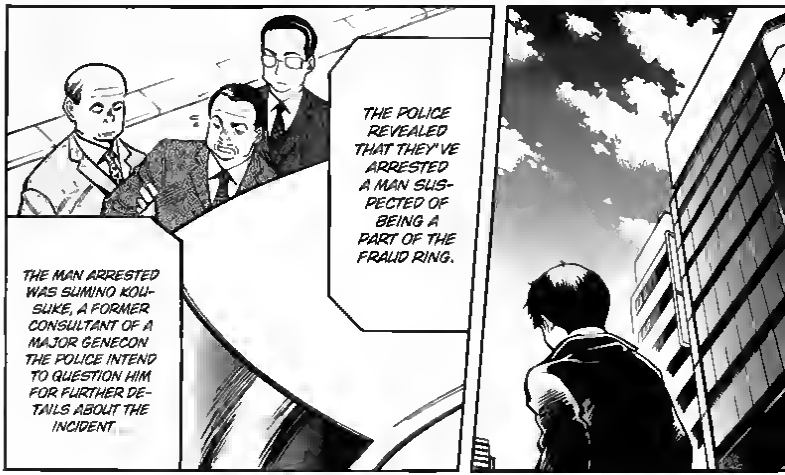
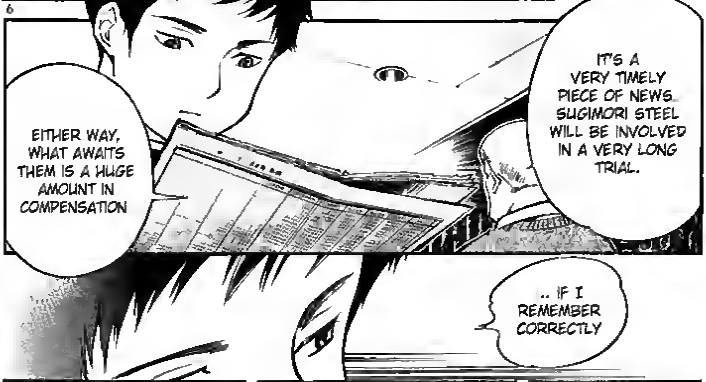

THE POLICE REVEALED THAT THEY'VE ARRESTED A MAN SUSPECTED OF BEING A PART OF THE FRAUD RING.
THE MAN ARRESTED WAS SUMINO KOUSUKE, A FORMER CONSULTANT OF A MAJOR GENECON THE POLICE INTEND TO QUESTION HIM FOR FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT THE INCIDENT.

HOW-EVER,
THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE MASTER-MINDS BEHIND THIS INCIDENT ARE STILL UNKNOWN...
SNACK KATSURA
BE
……
THE NEWS HAS BEEN PRETTY LIVELY LATELY.
AS IF THE EXPOSURE OF A LARGE FRAUD RING WASN'T ENOUGH HYPE...
FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS TO HAPPEN AS WELL.

The Evening Post
Misuse of incinerator technology taken from an American firm.
Sugimori Steel
THE "VICTIM" OF THE HUGE FRAUD INCIDENT HAS BEEN SUED FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT BY AN AMERICAN COMPANY..

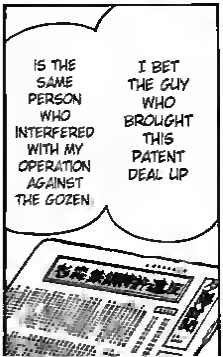

IT'S A VERY TIMELY PIECE OF NEWS. SUGIMORI STEEL WILL BE INVOLVED IN A VERY LONG TRIAL.
EITHER WAY, WHAT AWAITS THEM IS A HUGE AMOUNT IN COMPENSATION

.. IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY
SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPENED ONCE IN THE PAST.
MY PREY WAS SUDDENLY SNATCHED FROM ME BY SOMEONE.
I THOUGHT YOU SWINDLED 100 MILLION FROM THE GOZEN.
THEIR ENTIRE FORTUNE WAS 200 MILLION! THAT'S WHAT YOU TOLD ME!

I ONLY MANAGED TO GET HALF OF THAT.
WHAT'S MORE, I EVEN LET THEM ESCAPE
... I'M NOT SATISFIED

THE GOZEN HAS BEEN IN THIS BUSINESS FOR A LOT LONGER THAN YOU
SHOULDN'T YOU BE PROUD OF EVEN MANAGING TO STEAL 100 MILLION FROM A VETERAN SHIROSAGI?

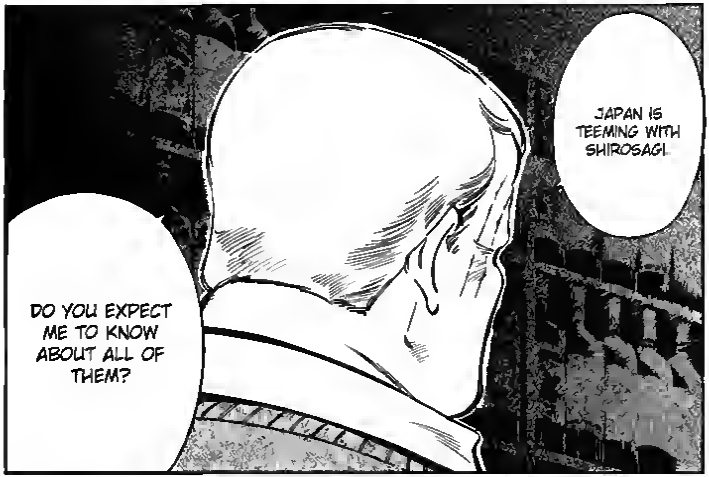
IT'D BE GREAT IF YOU COULD FIND OUT WHO THIS PERSON IS FOR ME ...


I BET THE GUY WHO BROUGHT THIS PATENT DEAL UP
IS THE SAME PERSON WHO INTERFERED WITH MY OPERATION AGAINST THE GOZEN

YOU KNOW THAT MAKES ME FEEL
EVEN MORE DISSATISFIED

BUT IT LOOKS LIKE
THAT WON'T HAPPEN, EH...

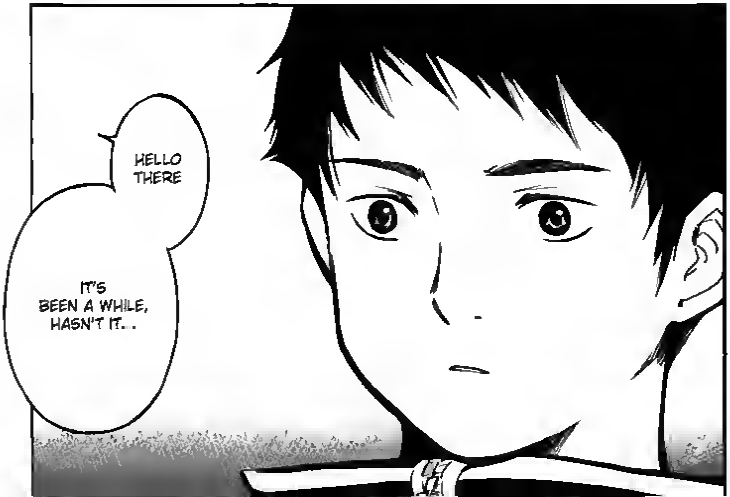
WHY DID THAT "SOMEONE" TARGET SUGIMORI STEEL?
JUST ANSWER ME THIS


JAPAN IS TEEMING WITH SHIROSAGI.
DO YOU EXPECT ME TO KNOW ABOUT ALL OF THEM?

... WHO-EVER THAT GUY IS

.....

HE PROBABLY FLEW THE COOP A LONG TIME AGO
I'D DO THE SAME.
IF HE WERE A SHIRO-SAGI
IT'D BE A NATURAL THING TO...

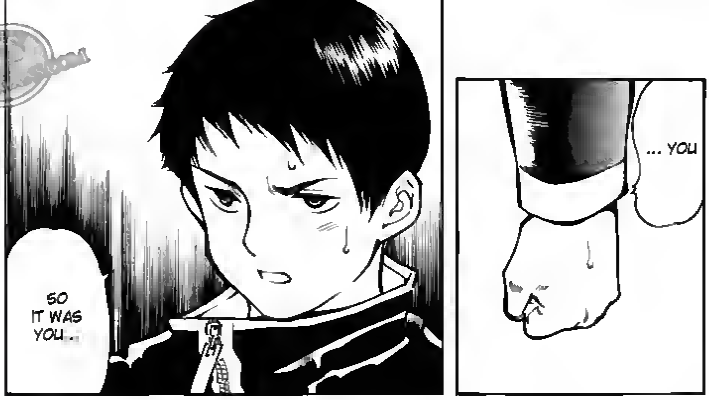

HELLO THERE
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, HASN'T IT..

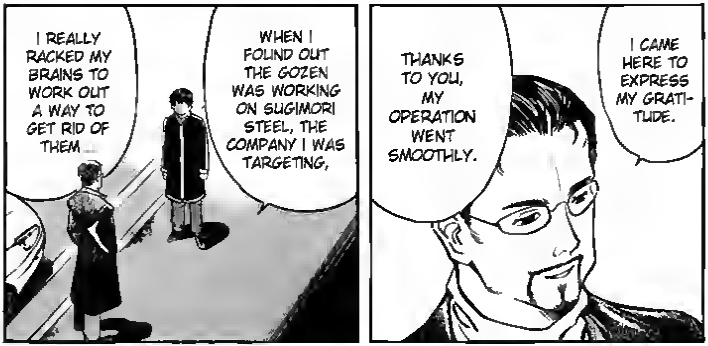
"HAMASHITA"-
SAN.

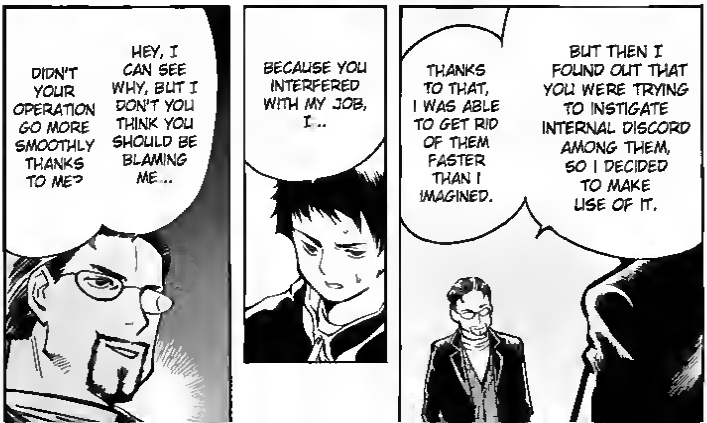
I NEVER EXPECTED TO MEET YOU AGAIN IN SUCH A PLACE.
THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING THE OTHER DAY.
.....
HUH?

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN? I'M TALKING ABOUT THE JOB WITH "HAMASHITA ELECTRICS."
THAT JOB WAS VERY ENTERTAINING.
...WELL

IT WASN'T AS FUN AS THE JOB THIS TIME ROUND...
KUROSAKI

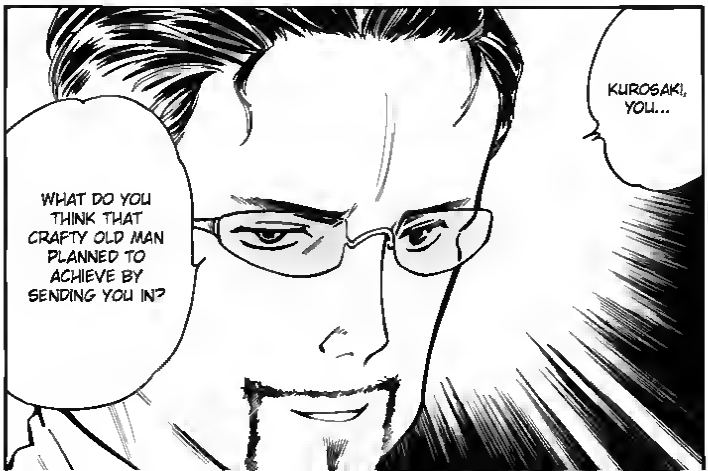

SO IT WAS YOU...
... YOU

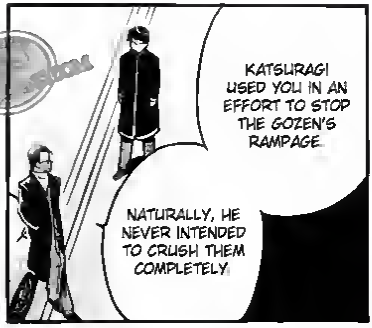

I REALLY RACKED MY BRAINS TO WORK OUT A WAY TO GET RID OF THEM...
WHEN I FOUND OUT THE GOZEN WAS WORKING ON SUGIMORI STEEL, THE COMPANY I WAS TARGETING,
THANKS TO YOU, MY OPERATION WENT SMOOTHLY.
I CAME HERE TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE.

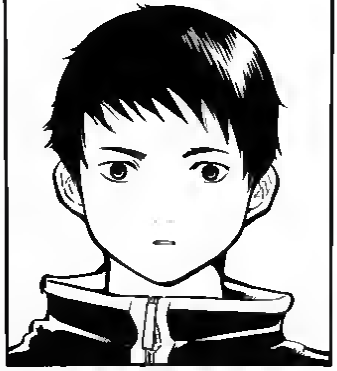

DIDN'T YOUR OPERATION GO MORE SMOOTHLY THANKS TO ME?
HEY, I CAN SEE WHY, BUT I DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD BE BLAMING ME...
BECAUSE YOU INTERFERED WITH MY JOB, I..
THANKS TO THAT, I WAS ABLE TO GET RID OF THEM FASTER THAN I IMAGINED.
BUT THEN I FOUND OUT THAT YOU WERE TRYING TO INSTIGATE INTERNAL DISCORD AMONG THEM, SO I DECIDED TO MAKE USE OF IT.

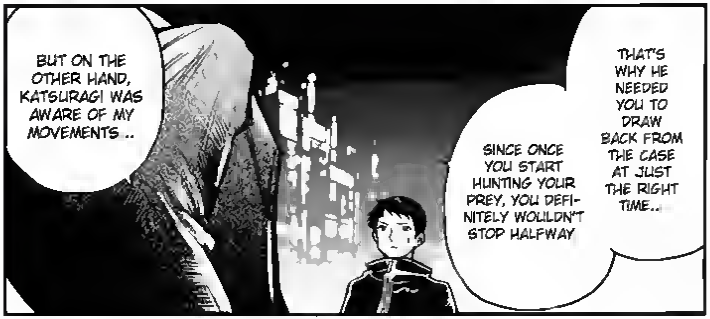
I WOULD HAVE STRIPPED THOSE SHIROSAGI OF ALL THEIR WEALTH!
IF YOU HADN'T INTERFERED

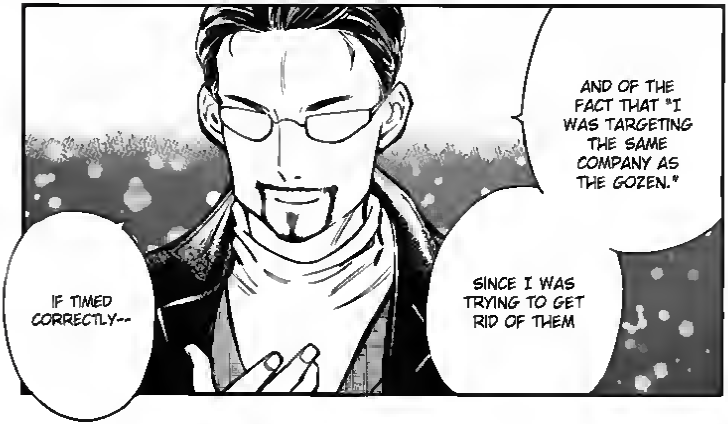
-- YOU SEE
DON'T GET ME WRONG, I'M NOT SAYING YOU'RE NOT CAPABLE OF IT.
YOU MIGHT THINK YOU'RE WORKING ALONE, BUT THE TRUTH IS, WHEN YOU MAKE A MOVE, SOMEONE ELSE DOES, TOO
-- NO
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE


KUROSAKI, YOU...
WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT CRAFTY OLD MAN PLANNED TO ACHIEVE BY SENDING YOU IN?

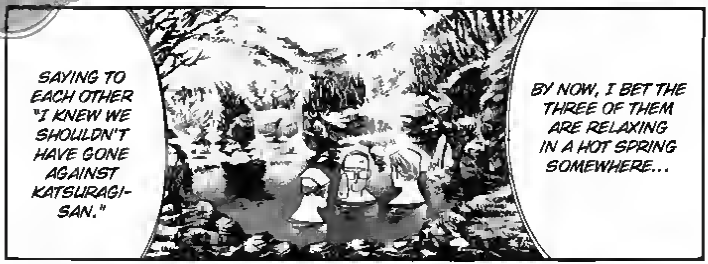

KATSURAGI USED YOU IN AN EFFORT TO STOP THE GOZEN'S RAMPAGE.
NATURALLY, HE NEVER INTENDED TO CRUSH THEM COMPLETELY.



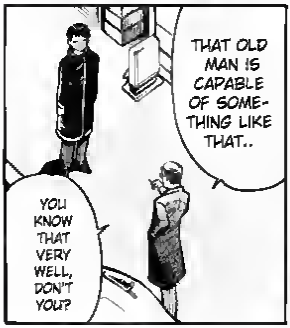

BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, KATSURAGI WAS AWARE OF MY MOVEMENTS..
SINCE ONCE YOU START HUNTING YOUR PREY, YOU DEFINITELY WOULDN'T STOP HALFWAY
THAT'S WHY HE NEEDED YOU TO DRAW BACK FROM THE CASE AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME..

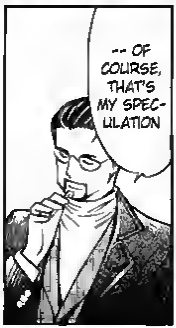

AND OF THE FACT THAT "I WAS TARGETING THE SAME COMPANY AS THE GOZEN."
SINCE I WAS TRYING TO GET RID OF THEM
IF TIMED CORRECTLY--

I'M GUESSING THAT WAS THE OLD MAN'S SCENARIO.
AND WHILE YOU WERE ABSORBED IN YOUR WORK, MY OPERATION WOULD HAVE ENDED, LEAVING THEM NO CHOICE BUT TO ESCAPE...
YOU'D START WORKING ON THE JOB BEFORE I FINISHED MINE,


SAYING TO EACH OTHER "I KNEW WE SHOULDN'T HAVE GONE AGAINST KATSURAGI-SAN."
BY NOW, I BET THE THREE OF THEM ARE RELAXING IN A HOT SPRING SOMEWHERE...

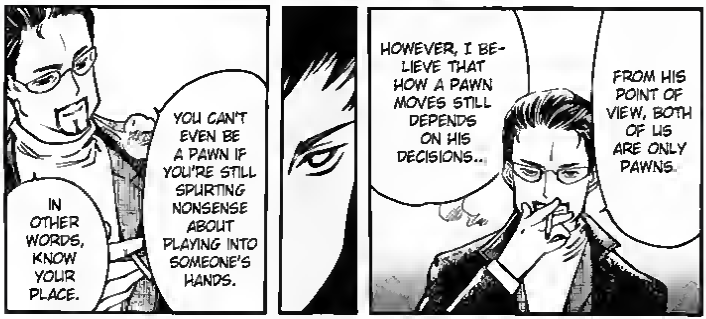
16

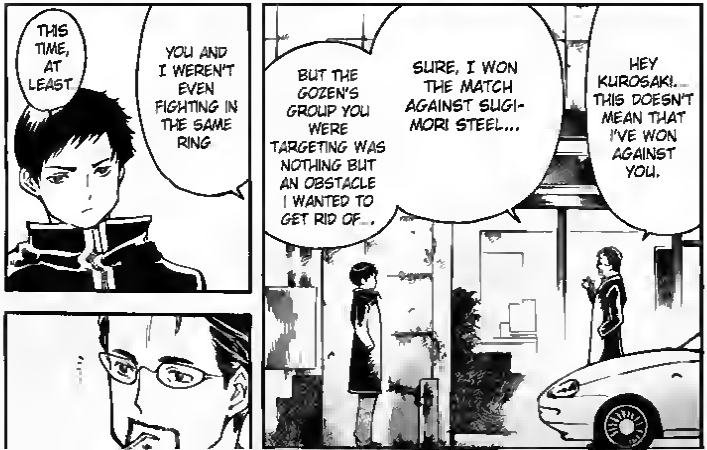

YOU KNOW THAT VERY WELL, DON'T YOU?
THAT OLD MAN IS CAPABLE OF SOME-THING LIKE THAT..


-- OF COURSE, THAT'S MY SPEC-ULATION

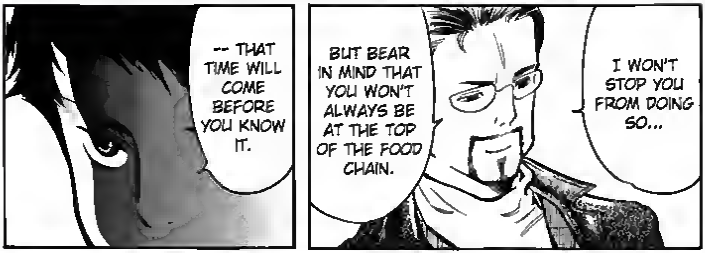
.....

YOU PLAYED RIGHT INTO THAT OLD GEEZER'S HANDS!!
SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT, IN SPITE OF BEING AWARE OF ALL THIS,
-- OH, I SEE!


IN OTHER WORDS, KNOW YOUR PLACE.
YOU CAN'T EVEN BE A PAWN IF YOU'RE STILL SPURTING NONSENSE ABOUT PLAYING INTO SOMEONE'S HANDS.
HOWEVER, I BELIEVE THAT HOW A PAWN MOVES STILL DEPENDS ON HIS DECISIONS...
FROM HIS POINT OF VIEW, BOTH OF US ARE ONLY PAWNS.


THIS TIME, AT LEAST.
YOU AND I WEREN'T EVEN FIGHTING IN THE SAME RING
BUT THE GOZEN'S GROUP YOU WERE TARGETING WAS NOTHING BUT AN OBSTACLE I WANTED TO GET RID OF...
SURE, I WON THE MATCH AGAINST SUGIMORI STEEL...
HEY KUROSAKI... THIS DOESN'T MEAN THAT I'VE WON AGAINST YOU.

IN THE END, YOU'RE JUST A SHIROSAGI...
THAT'S WHY
I'LL DEVOUR YOU TOO.


-- THAT TIME WILL COME BEFORE YOU KNOW IT.
BUT BEAR IN MIND THAT YOU WON'T ALWAYS BE AT THE TOP OF THE FOOD CHAIN.
I WON'T STOP YOU FROM DOING SO...

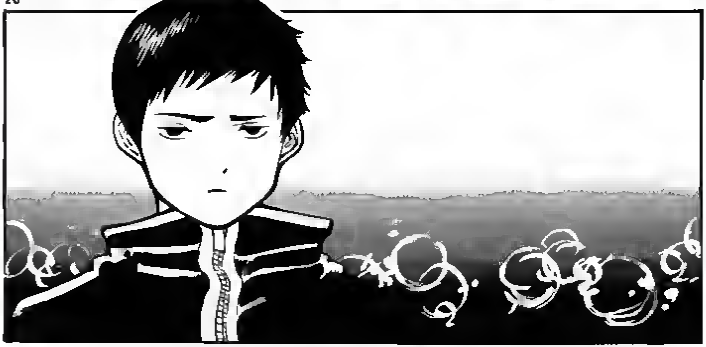
YEAH, RIGHT, SHIRO-S/GI.
I DO KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO ACHIEVE.
KUROSAKI, ALTHOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE FEELING,
NO, I DO.

ONE DAY, YOU'LL FIGURE OUT THE REASON WHY I SAID I "KNOW."
OF COURSE, THAT'S ASSUMING YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M TRYING TO DO HERE.

I'LL BE IN TOKYO FOR A WHILE.
LET'S MEET UP SOMETIME.

OH, AND KURO-SAKI...
LET ME GIVE YOU A PIECE OF ADVICE.
?

A REAL "VILLAIN"
IS SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A TAIL YOU CAN GRAB ON TO.



Kurosagi (the black swindler)

Written by Takeshi Natsuhara, Illustrated by Kuromaru

KUROSAGI CHAPTER 51

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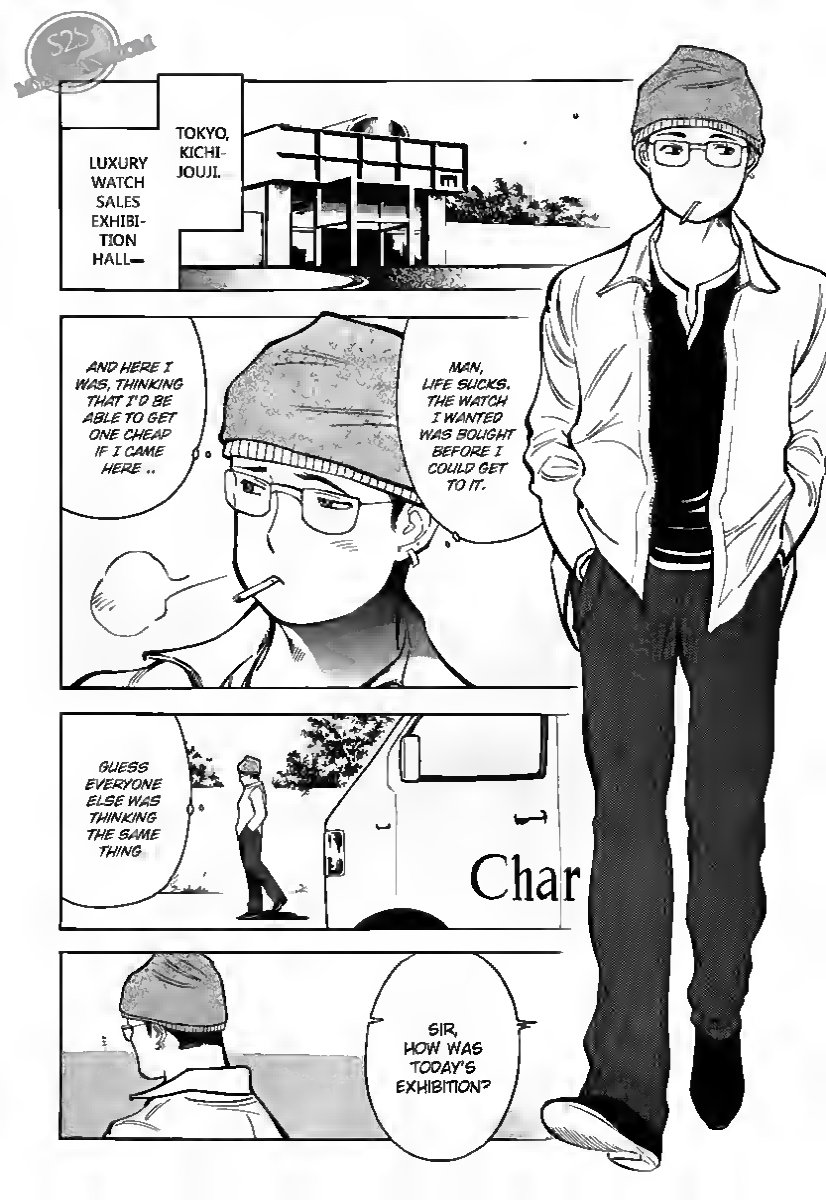
Plaasa support Takashi Natsuhara aod Kuromaru
by purchaslag this maaga whaa
it's availabla ia your cauotry.

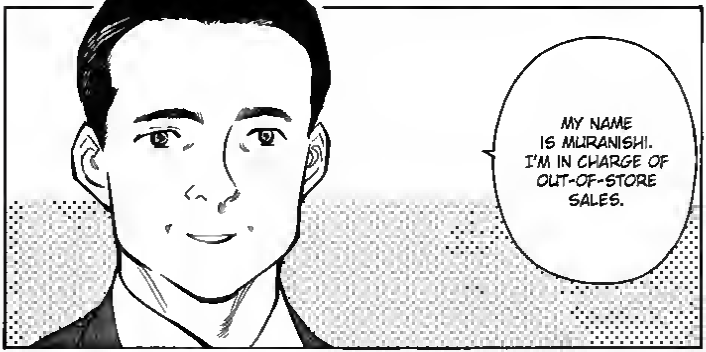
CHAPTER 52 SAMPLE FRAUD
(FIRST PART)

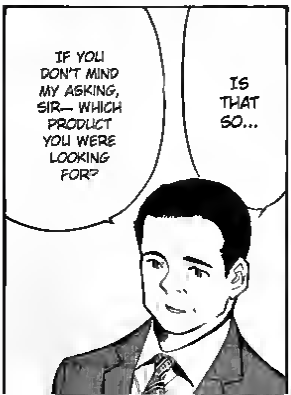

LUXURY WATCH SALES EXHIBI-TION HALL—
TOKYO, KICHI-JOUJI.
AND HERE I WAS, THINKING THAT I'D BE ABLE TO GET ONE CHEAP IF I CAME HERE ..
MAN, LIFE SUCKS. THE WATCH I WANTED WAS BOUGHT BEFORE I COULD GET TO IT.
GUESS EVERYONE ELSE WAS THINKING THE SAME THING.
Char
SIR, HOW WAS TODAY'S EXHIBITION?

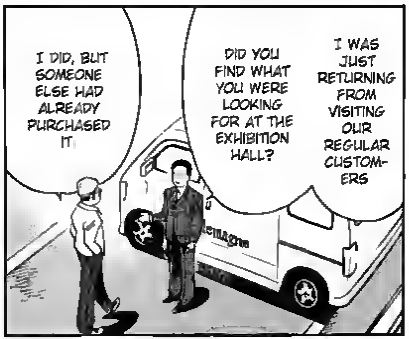
Cha agn
.....
BOUTIQUE "CHAR-LEMAGNE".
DID YOU FIND A PRODUCT THAT CALIGHT YOUR EYE?

I'VE BEEN TO YOUR KICHIJOUJI OUTLET. ARE YOU A SHOP ASSISTANT THERE?
MY APOLOGIES, I'VE YET TO INTRODUCE MYSELF—

AAH...! ONE OF THE BOUTIQUES PARTICIPATING IN THE EXHIBITION.


MY NAME IS MURANISHI. I'M IN CHARGE OF OUT-OF-STORE SALES.


IS THAT SO...
IF YOU DON'T MIND MY ASKING, SIR— WHICH PRODUCT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR?


I WAS JUST RETURNING FROM VISITING OUR REGULAR CUSTOMERS
DID YOU FIND WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR AT THE EXHIBITION HALL?
I DID, BUT SOMEONE ELSE HAD ALREADY PURCHASED IT.

HMM? WHAT IS IT?
.....

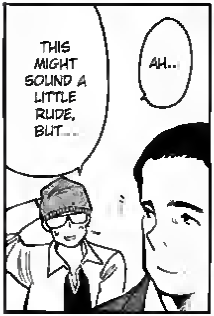
A COURTIER WATCH
A 35MM GMT. HONESTLY, IT'S NOT MY TASTE, BUT MY GIRL-FRIEND LIKES THIS BRAND—
I SEE... INDEED, IT'S A VERY POPULAR PRODUCT.

WHAT?

CAN YOU KEEP THIS A SECRET?

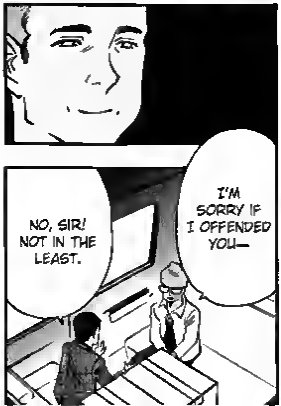
ACTUALLY, I HAPPEN TO HAVE ONE MEANT FOR DIRECT SALES IN STOCK.
A 35MM GMT...

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I WAS AT A LOSS SINCE THE CUSTOMER WHO ORDERED THIS 35MM GMT CANCELLED HIS ORDER.
NO, YOU CAN HAVE IT AT THE PRICE WE SET AT THE SALES EXHIBITION.
AH, BUT... DOES THAT MEAN I'LL HAVE TO BUY IT AT THE REGULAR PRICE OF 1.1 MILLION YEN?
WHAT! REALLY ?!
IT'S MY LUCKY DAY!!
.....!
OKAY!
WELL THEN, SIR WE NEED TO KEEP THIS DEAL A SECRET FROM THE OTHER CUSTOMERS, SO LET'S DISCUSS THE DETAILS IN THE VAN


THIS MIGHT SOUND A LITTLE RUDE, BUT...
AH..

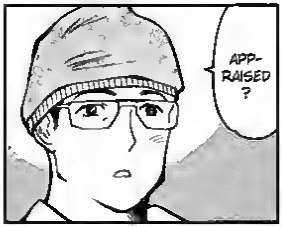
WITH PLEA-SURE
COULD YOU SELL IT TO ME? PLEASE...!

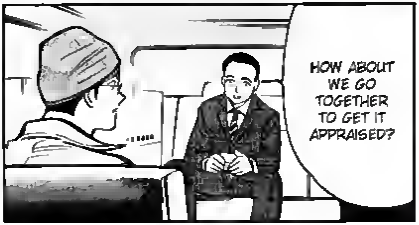
YES, THAT'S IT!
IS THIS WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR?

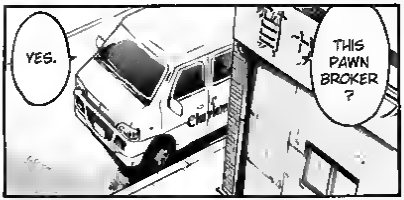

NO, SIR! NOT IN THE LEAST.
I'M SORRY IF I OFFENDED YOU—

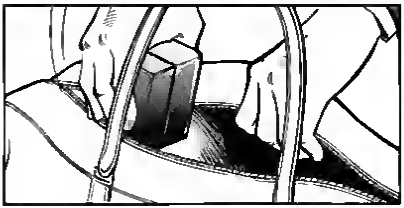
ARE THERE?
THERE'S NO POSSIBILITY THAT THERE ARE FAKES MIXED IN WITH YOUR PRODUCTS—

WITHOUT A DOUBT, THE REPLICAS THESE DAYS ARE VERY INTRICATE... IN FACT EACH ONE EVEN COMES WITH A BOX AND A WARRANTY.
CONSIDERING THERE WAS EVEN AN INCIDENT WHERE REPLICAS WERE SOLD OPENLY AT A LEADING DEPARTMENT STORE, IT'S NATURAL THAT YOU'RE CONCERNED.


APP-RAISED ?


HOW ABOUT WE GO TOGETHER TO GET IT APPRAISED?


YES.
THIS PAWN BROKER ?



YOU'D FEEL REASSURED IF WE HAVE IT APPRAISED BY A THIRD-PARTY EXPERT, WOULDN'T YOU?

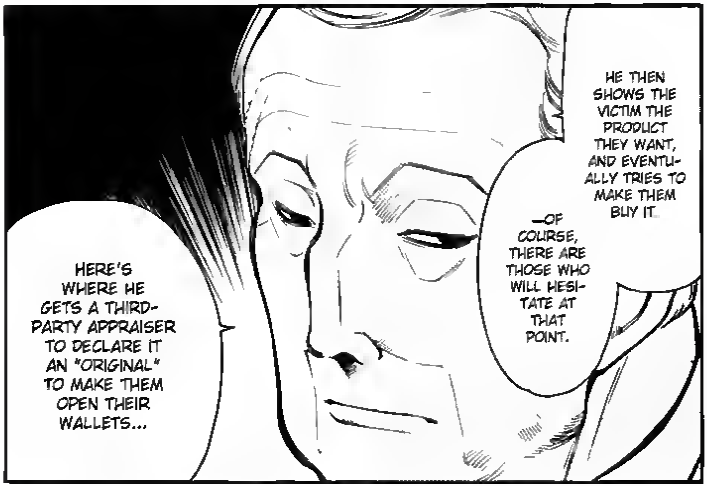
LET'S GO THEN...
OKAY.
.....
ALONG WITH THE BOX AND THE WARRANTY, WE CAN PURCHASE IT FOR 700 THOUSAND...
HOW ABOUT IT?
700 THOUSAND...
LET ME THINK IT OVER.
THE PAWN BROKER WILL PURCHASE THIS AS AN OLD, BUT UNUSED, ITEM FOR 700 THOUSAND, THEN SELL IT AT 900 THOUSAND
SO THAT MEANS...
YES, IT'S AN ORIGINAL.
DOES THAT ASSURE YOU?

I'LL BUY THAT WATCH.
ALL RIGHT
OH NO, SIR. THINK NOTHING OF IT
THANKS FOR EVERY-THING... YOU EVEN HAD IT APPRAISED FOR ME
THEN IT'LL BE THE SAME PRICE AS THE EXHIBITION, 650 THOU-SAND
OKAY, HERE YOU GO
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR PATRONAGE

A COURTIER 36MM GMT...
A 11 MILLION YEN LUXURY WATCH...
—BUT IT'S A REPLICA.
PRETTY WELL MADE FOR A REPLICA.
MAYBE
MAYBE?
YEAH, I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT WATCHES
THERE AREN'T MANY WHO CAN TELL IT'S A FAKE
—HERE'S THE OWNER OF THESE IMITATION WATCHES

HIS NAME IS MURANISHI TADAHIRO...
A SHIROSAGI WHO CARRIES OUT "SAMPLE FRAUDS".
.....
FIRST, HE STOPS HIS VAN, COVERED WITH THE LOGO OF A FAMOUS BOUTIQUE, IN FRONT OF THE SITE OF A LUXURY WATCH SALES EXHIBITION.
THEN, HE FILLS IT WITH BOXES FROM ACTUAL BRANDS AND OPENS THE DOOR SLIGHTLY SO PEOPLE CAN SEE IT.
THE BAIT MURANISHI USES IS LUXURY WATCHES.
HE SELLS REPLICAS AS ORIGINALS.

HOWEVER, HIS TARGET SEES THE LOGO AND MISTAKES HIM FOR SOMEONE FROM THAT BOUTIQUE...
BUT IT'S ONLY STUCK ON BY MAGNETS... THAT'S SO HE CAN REMOVE IT TO MAKE A QUICK RUN WHEN ANYONE STARTS TO SUSPECT HIM
NATURALLY, THE LOGO ON THE VAN IS FROM ONE OF THE BOUTIQUES PARTICIPATING IN THE EXHIBITION.


HERE'S WHERE HE GETS A THIRD-PARTY APPRAISER TO DECLARE IT AN "ORIGINAL" TO MAKE THEM OPEN THEIR WALLETS...
—OF COURSE, THERE ARE THOSE WHO WILL HESITATE AT THAT POINT.
HE THEN SHOWS THE VICTIM THE PRODUCT THEY WANT, AND EVENTUALLY TRIES TO MAKE THEM BUY IT.

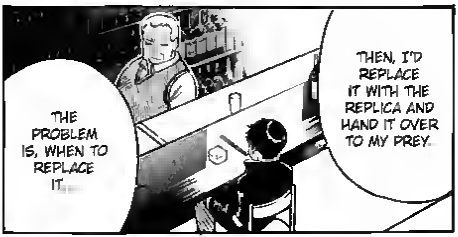
IF IT WERE YOU, HOW WOULD YOU DO IT?

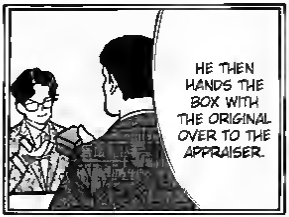
HOW DOES HE GET A REPLICA TO BE APPRAISED AS AN ORIGINAL ...?

.....
THAT'S THE BASIS OF THE SHIROSAGI MURANISHI'S TRICK.

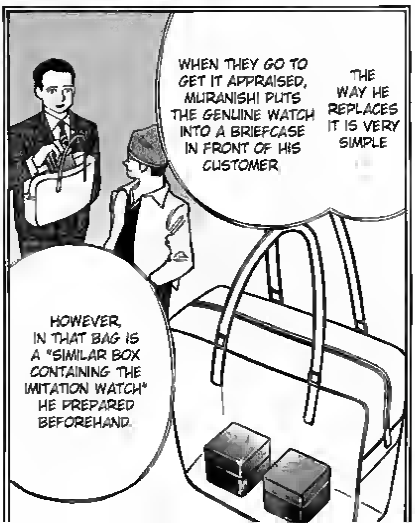
NO MATTER HOW INTRICATE THE REPLICA IS, IT'S TOO RISKY TO SHOW IT TO A PROFES-SIONAL.
IF IT WERE ME, I'D SHOW THE APPRAISER AN ORIGINAL.

—IN MURA-NISHI'S CASE


THE PROBLEM IS, WHEN TO REPLACE IT...
THEN, I'D REPLACE IT WITH THE REPLICA AND HAND IT OVER TO MY PREY.


HE THEN HANDS THE BOX WITH THE ORIGINAL OVER TO THE APPRAISER.

HE THEN RETURNS THE BOX TO THE BAG .
ONCE IT'S CONFIRMED AS AN "ORIGINAL" AND THE CUSTOMER IS SATIS-FIED,


WHEN THEY GO TO GET IT APPRAISED, MURANISHI PUTS THE GENUINE WATCH INTO A BRIEFCASE IN FRONT OF HIS CUSTOMER
THE WAY HE REPLACES IT IS VERY SIMPLE
HOWEVER, IN THAT BAG IS A "SIMILAR BOX CONTAINING THE IMITATION WATCH" HE PREPARED BEFOREHAND.

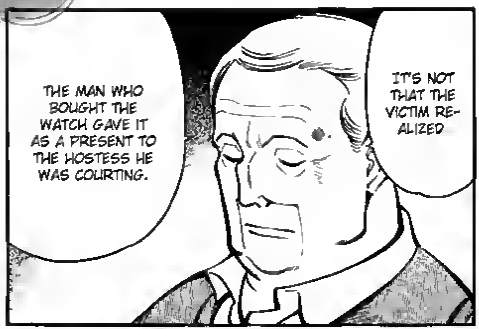
IT'S AN ACCUMULATION OF VARIOUS SMALL TRICKS... SAYING TO THE CUSTOMER "I'M AT A LOSS SINCE MY CUSTOMER CANCELED HIS ORDER" IS ALSO ONE
YEAH, THAT WAS SIMPLE

AND WHEN THE TIME COMES TO SELL IT TO THE CUSTOMER, HE TAKES OUT THE BOX WITH THE REPLICA.

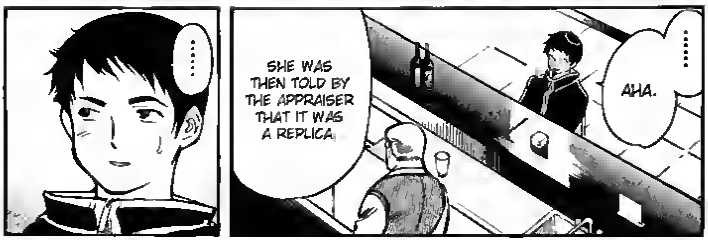
USING A "SOB STORY", EH...
.....

—HEY, OLD MAN...
HOW DID THE VICTIM FIND OUT THAT THIS WATCH WAS A REPLICA?

IT'S REALLY RARE FOR A WATCH TO BE REAPPRAISED ONCE IT'S BEEN CERTIFIED AS AN "ORIGINAL," RIGHT?
IN A SENSE, THE ADVANTAGE OF THIS FRAUD IS THAT IT'S HARD FOR VICTIMS TO REALIZE THEY'VE BEEN CHEATED.


THE MAN WHO BOUGHT THE WATCH GAVE IT AS A PRESENT TO THE HOSTESS HE WAS COURTING.
IT'S NOT THAT THE VICTIM RE-ALIZED
AND YET THE VICTIM STILL FOUND OUT... WHY'S THAT?

SHE IMMEDI-ATELY TOOK THE WATCH TO A PAWNBROKER AND TRIED TO EXCHANGE IT FOR CASH.
BUT APPARENTLY,


.....
SHE WAS THEN TOLD BY THE APPRAISER THAT IT WAS A REPLICA.
.....
AHA.

IN THE FIRST PLACE, I BOUGHT IT BECAUSE YOU INSISTED THAT YOU WANTED ONE... WHY THE HELL DID YOU TRY TO SELL IT OFF?!
A FAKE?! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!
DID YOU THINK YOU'D WIN MY HEART BY GIVING ME A FAKE WATCH?!
DON'T MESS WITH ME!
LOVE'S SUCH A BEAUTIFUL THING...
WELL, HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THE REPLICA WAS AN ORIGINAL.
THE TRUTH IS, HE'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH MURANISHI BUT THE VICTIM IS CONVINCED THAT HE IS.
THIS INFORMATION WAS BROUGHT OVER BY THE APPRAISER AT THE PAWNBROKER. REMEMBER, MURANISHI TOOK THE VICTIM THERE TO VERIFY THE WATCH'S AUTHENTICITY.
THE VICTIM THOUGHT THE APPRAISER WAS IN COLLUSION WITH MURANISHI. THE APPRAISER IS NOW BEING QUESTIONED BY THE POLICE.

NOT ONLY THAT, HE WAS OBLIVIOUS TO THE TYPE OF WOMAN HE WAS COURTING.
SO THERE'S NO WAY HE'D KNOW ABOUT THE SHIRO-SAGI...
HONESTLY, IT PUZZLES ME.
WHY WOULD SOMEONE BE SO PARTICULAR ABOUT WHETHER A PRODUCT IS GENUINE, IF THEY CAN'T EVEN TELL IT FROM A FAKE WITH THEIR OWN EYES?
AS LONG AS IT TELLS THE TIME, IT'S STILL A SPLENDID WATCH.
HOWEVER,
THE FACT THAT MURANISHI'S SELL-ING REPLICAS FOR THE SAME PRICE AS ORIGINALS, WHEN YOU CAN GET THEM OVERSEAS FOR 2 TO 3 THOUSAND YEN, MAKES HIM A SHIROSAGI...
IN OTHER WORDS, MY PREY.

CHANCES ARE HE'S PICKING OUT HIS NEXT VICTIM AT SOME EXHIBITION SITE...
I GUESS I'LL GO AND MEET THIS MURANISHI GUY.
OKAY THEN
THEY'RE NOT SUITABLE PREY.
NEITHER WILL ANYONE WHO DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE THE CASH...
—THOSE WHO COME HERE JUST TO HAVE A LOOK WON'T DO.

UMM...
THOSE TYPES ARE MOST SUITABLE AS PREY
AND PEOPLE WHO DON'T SEEM TO HAVE GOTTEN WHAT THEY WANTED.
SOMEONE ALREADY WEARING A REASONABLY GOOD WATCH, DESPITE OTHERWISE NORMAL ATTIRE.
"CHARLEMAGNE" ...SO YOU'RE FROM THAT FAMOUS STORE IN GINZA
AH... YES.
EXCUSE ME, BUT ARE YOU A DEALER FROM THIS STORE?
YES?
IS THAT SO... WHAT A PITY.
!?
YOU SEE, THE DISTRIBUTION OF NUMBERED TICKETS* AT THE EXHIBITION JUST ENDED.

T. NOTE: TICKET THAT SHOWS THE ORDER IN WHICH THE CUSTOMER WILL BE SERVED

YOU MUST BE IN CHARGE OF OUTSIDE SALES. ARE YOU BACK FROM SERVING YOUR REGULAR CUSTOMERS?
YES, THIS IS—
I JUST HAPPENED TO NOTICE
THAT YOUR VAN WAS FILLED WITH MERCHANDISE
MY APOLOGIES. HERE'S MY CARD.
AAH! I SHOULD HAVE INTRODUCED MYSELF FIRST...
THIS GUY IS SEEMS STRANGELY WELL-INFORMED ... IS HE INVOLVED IN THE INDUSTRY?
.....
REPRESENTATIVE OF JEWELRY AND DESIGNER GOODS OUTLET, "WISTERIAL" ..
Jewelry and Designer Goods Outlet
FUJISAKI TAKA
Representative
Wisteria

PLEASED TO MEET YOU. MY NAME IS FUJISAKI.
THAT'S RIGHT...

Kurosagi (the black swindler)

Written by Takeshi Natsuhara, Illustrated by Kuromaru

KUROSAGI CHAPTER 59

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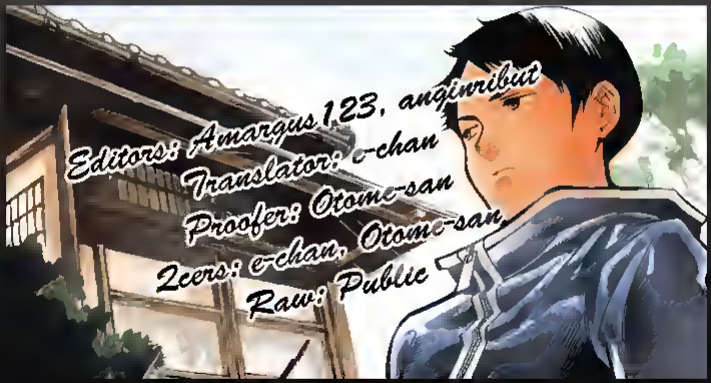

Plaasa support Takashi Natsuhara aod Kuromaru
by purchaslag this maaga whaa
it's availabla ia your cauotry.

Recruitment page for Shounen and Seinen projects of S2scans~

>> Kurosagi 2Cer
>> Giant Killing Translator
>> Mushibugyo Translator
>> Gekka Bijin Translator
>> Denpa Kyoushi Redrawers

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~ S2scans Team

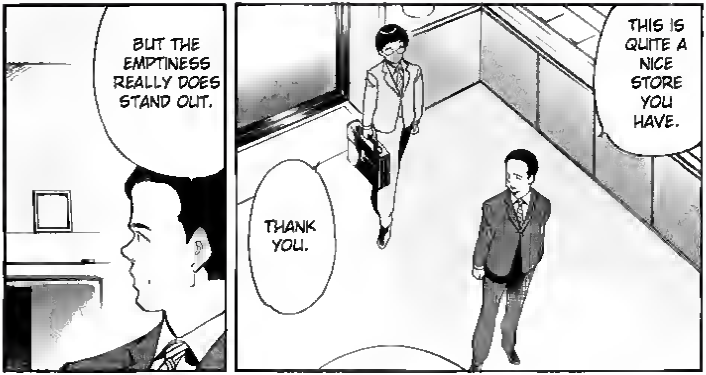
REPRESENTATIVE OF JEWELRY AND DESIGNER GOODS OUTLET, "WISTERIAL"...
SO YOU'RE IN THE SAME BUSINESS.
YES
MY NAME IS FUJISAKI.

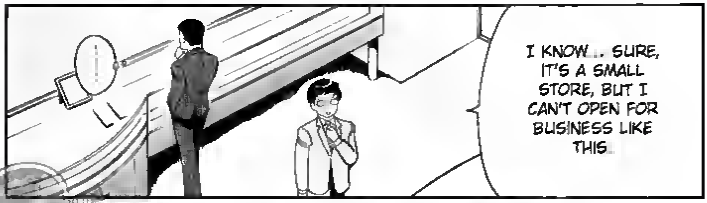
CHAPTER 53 SAMPLE FRAUD
(MIDDLE PART)

ACTUALLY, I OWN A STORE IN SEIJOU...
BUT SINCE I'M JUST STARTING OUT
I'M HAVING A LOT OF TROUBLE FINDING A SUPPLIER.
AHA, I SEE...
SO HE'S FROM A NEW DISCOUNT STORE UNABLE TO SECURE A SUPPLY ROUTE YET.

AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M EMPTY-HANDED.
NO LUCK THEN?
I WAS THINKING OF SLIPPING INTO ONE OF THESE EXHIBITIONS AS A CIVILIAN TO BUY SUPPLIES, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I GOT WHAT I DESERVED.
INDEED.
SO WHEN I SAW YOUR VAN FILLED WITH MERCHANDISE,
IT MADE ME WONDER WHETHER YOU COULD HELP ME OUT.
THAT'S WHY I SWALLOWED MY PRIDE AND DECIDED TO CALL OUT TO YOU.
5
I SEE, SO HE WANTS TO BUY IN BULK...
YES.
HELP YOU WITH SUPPLIES?

IF YOU COULD SPARE SOME TIME, WHY DON'T WE DISCUSS THE DETAILS AT MY STORE?
I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MERCHANDISE, SO IT'S NOT OPEN FOR BUSINESS YET.
IS THIS THE PLACE?
YES, PLEASE COME IN.
wiste
SEIJOU --
OHO
THIS IS A SURPRISE.


BUT THE EMPTINESS REALLY DOES STAND OUT.
THIS IS QUITE A NICE STORE YOU HAVE.
THANK YOU.


I KNOW... SURE, IT'S A SMALL STORE, BUT I CAN'T OPEN FOR BUSINESS LIKE THIS.

ALTHOUGH THERE'S A RIVAL OUTLET IN FRONT OF THE TRAIN STATION, OVER HERE THERE ARE A LOT A FANCY GIRLS' SCHOOLS.
I'M EXPECTING THE STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS TO BE MY FUTURE CUSTOMERS.
IF I CAN SECURE A GOOD SUPPLY ROUTE, THE SELLING PRICE CAN BE LOWERED BY A FAIR AMOUNT. I THINK I STAND A GOOD CHANCE OF WINNING.

SO HOW ABOUT IT... CAN YOU SUPPLY ME WITH SOME MERCHANDISE, MURANISHI-SAN?
HOWEVER, THOSE TYPES OF CUSTOMERS ARE VERY PARTICULAR, SO I CAN'T JUST SELL RANDOM GOODS.
HE'S GOT A POINT... EVEN THOUGH IT SPECIALIZES IN LUXURY GOODS, CUSTOMERS WILL FIND IT EASY TO WALK INTO A STORE WITH AN AMBIENCE LIKE THIS.
THE FIRST FLOOR OF A SHOPPING MALL ON A MAIN STREET IS A PRETTY GOOD LOCATION, TOO.
BY RIGHTS, A PERSON IN CHARGE OF OUTSIDE SALES SHOULD DO THIS KIND OF WORK...

BUT
IT JUST SO HAPPENS I WAS IN A BIND AFTER RECEIVING A SUDDEN CANCELLATION FROM ONE OF OUR GOOD CUSTOMERS

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

SO THEN...!
YES IF YOU'LL PROVIDE ME A LIST OF THE MERCHANDISE YOU'RE INTERESTED IN, I'LL TRY TO SEE WHAT I CAN DO.

OF COURSE, ALL THE ITEMS I'M DELIVERING ARE REPLICAS..
THERE'S NO WAY A KID LIKE THIS, WHO CAN'T EVEN RUN A STORE, COULD TELL THE DIFFERENCE.

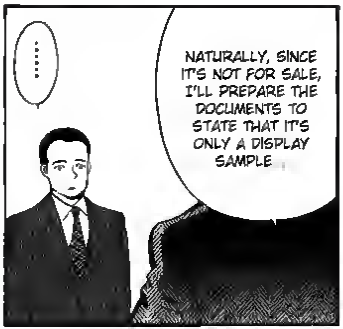
MAYBE I SHOULD TAKE A SHORT "REST" AFTER GETTING THE PROCEEDS FROM THIS JOB.
I'LL PROBABLY MAKE ENOUGH MONEY TO DO THAT.
AFTER ALL, TAKING NEEDED BREAKS IS THE SECRET TO A LONG-LASTING JOB...
.....
THESE ARE THE COURTIERS
AND THESE ARE THE RONEXES...
3 DAYS LATER.

AMAZING, MURANISHI-SAN! YOU MANAGED TO GET MOST OF THE MERCHANDISE ON MY LIST!
WELL, I'VE BEEN IN THE BUSINESS FOR A LONG TIME...
HOWEVER A NEWCOMER SUCH AS YOU, FUJISAKI-SAN, MIGHT FIND IT HARD TO SECURE THEM. .
WITH ALL THIS MERCHANDISE, I CAN EVEN OPEN THE SHOP THIS WEEKEND.
THEY'RE IN SUCH GOOD CONDITION, TOO!
ALL RIGHT, LET'S CARRY THEM IN.
OKAY!
OH! BY THE WAY, MURANISHI

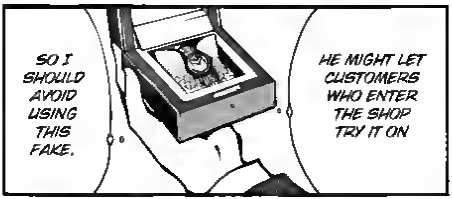
IN ADDITION FROM THIS MERCHANDISE
IS IT POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO PREPARE A WATCH FOR DISPLAY IN THE SHOW WINDOW?
ACTUALLY, ALL THE WATCHES CURRENTLY IN THE SHOW WINDOW ARE BORROWED GOODS.
AND I'LL HAVE TO RETURN THEM VERY SOON...
HUH...?
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN WHY DON'T YOU JUST SET ASIDE A NUMBER OF THE WATCHES TO PUT ON DISPLAY?
YES, I COULD DO THAT BUT ...
?
WELL...

IF I OPEN UP THE BRAND-NEW PRODUCTS TO PUT ON DISPLAY, WOULDN'T THEY BE CONSIDERED "USED"?
WHEN THAT HAPPENS I WON'T BE ABLE TO SELL THEM AS BRAND-NEW. IF I'M NOT CAREFUL THEY MIGHT EVEN SELL FOR LESS THAN I PAID.
AAH... I SEE
.....!!
SO IF YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE ANY GOODS YOU'VE BEEN USING AS SAMPLES, I WONDER IF YOU'D LEND THEM TO ME.
SINCE I WENT THROUGH A LOT OF TROUBLE TRYING TO GET THE SUPPLIES, I'D LIKE TO KEEP THEM IN TOP CONDITION.
HMM... YOU KNOW HOW SHOPS ARE LOW ON CASH AFTER THEIR OPENING DAY
I WAS JUST HOPING I COULD SAVE SOME MONEY
HE'S GOT THIS STREAK OF CRAFTINESS IN HIM ..
GEEZ FOR A KID, HE'S A PRETTY SHREWD SALESMAN.

ALL RIGHT THEN...
PLEASE WAIT WHILE I LOOK FOR SOME IN THE VAN.


.....
NATURALLY, SINCE IT'S NOT FOR SALE, I'LL PREPARE THE DOCUMENTS TO STATE THAT IT'S ONLY A DISPLAY SAMPLE

Wisterial
Charlemagne

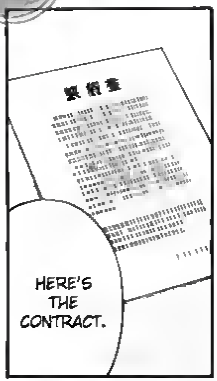

SO I SHOULD AVOID USING THIS FAKE.
HE MIGHT LET CUSTOMERS WHO ENTER THE SHOP TRY IT ON

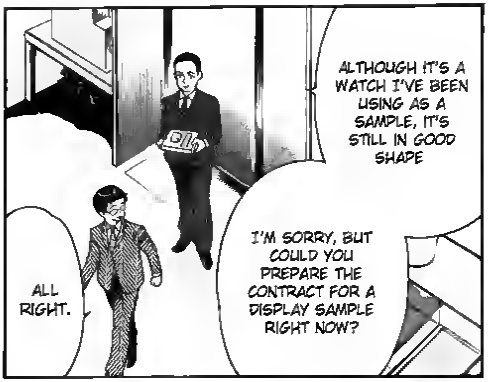
A WATCH TO PLACE IN A WINDOW FACING THE STREET...

ON THE OTHER HAND, NO AMATEUR CAN TELL THAT MY PRODUCTS ARE REPLICAS
AND TO PROVE IT...

THAT FUJISAKI KID LOOKED AT THE FAKES AND ACTUALLY SAID THEY WERE "IN SUCH GOOD CONDITION."
I'LL DEFINITELY BE ABLE TO FOOL HIM!
NOT TO MENTION THIS IS AN UPSCALE NEIGHBORHOOD WITH OTHER LUXURY WATCH OUTLETS NEARBY...
FOR EXAMPLE, I'D KNOW IF IT WAS A FAKE JUST BY LOOKING AT THE DIAL.
HOWEVER... IF A CUSTOMER WITH A KEEN EYE COMES OVER, IT MIGHT BE RISKY.

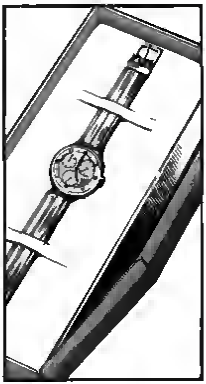
I DEFINITELY CAN'T PLACE A CHEAP REPLICA IN THE BROAD DAYLIGHT OF A SHOW WINDOW.
IF BY SOME CHANCE, THE FACT THAT IT'S A REPLICA IS EXPOSED, MY PLAN WILL BE RUINED BEFORE I EVEN GET MY MONEY...
.....
HERE YOU GO, FUJISAKI-SAN.
I'LL LEND YOU THIS WATCH.
GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO GO WITH THE ORIGINAL...


HERE'S THE CONTRACT.


ALL RIGHT.
I'M SORRY, BUT COULD YOU PREPARE THE CONTRACT FOR A DISPLAY SAMPLE RIGHT NOW?
ALTHOUGH IT'S A WATCH I'VE BEEN USING AS A SAMPLE, IT'S STILL IN GOOD SHAPE

THANK YOU, YOU'RE A BIG HELP!
OKAY, I'LL BE LENDING YOU THOSE 12 WATCHES FOR A MONTH.

THANK YOU.



THE OSCILLATION OF THE SECOND HAND...
THE CLARITY OF THE DIAL...
AND THE LETTERING ON THE INDEX DIAL.
FUJISAKI-SAN, IS IT OKAY IF I PUT THIS BOX OVER HERE?
YES.

THANK YOU
FOR EVERYTHING.

Kurosagi (the black swindler)

Written by Takeshi Natsuhara, Illustrated by Kuromaru

KUROSAGI CHAPTER 53

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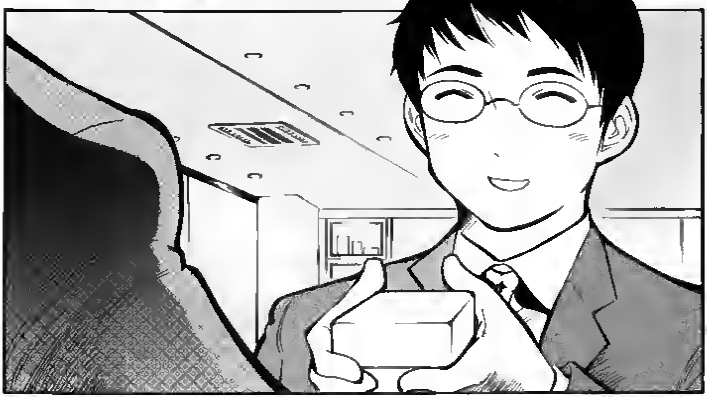
by purchaslag this maaga whaa
it's availabla ia your cauotry.

CHAPTER 54 SAMPLE FRAUD
(FINAL PART)
wist
HOW MAY I HELP YOU?

EXCUSE ME, I'D LIKE TO TRY THIS ON...
YES, RIGHT AWAY.
DO YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE A BREITEN CHRONO? I CAN'T SEEM TO FIND IT...
YES WE DO, SIR.



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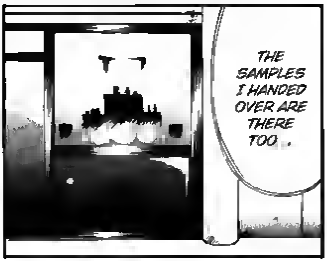
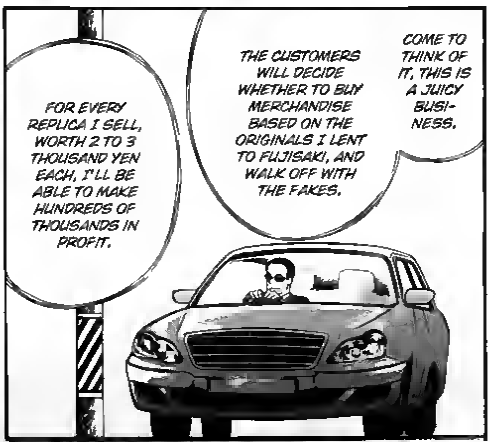
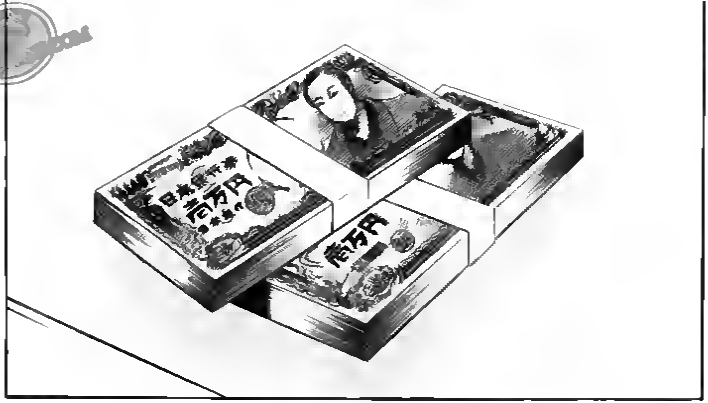
wisteria

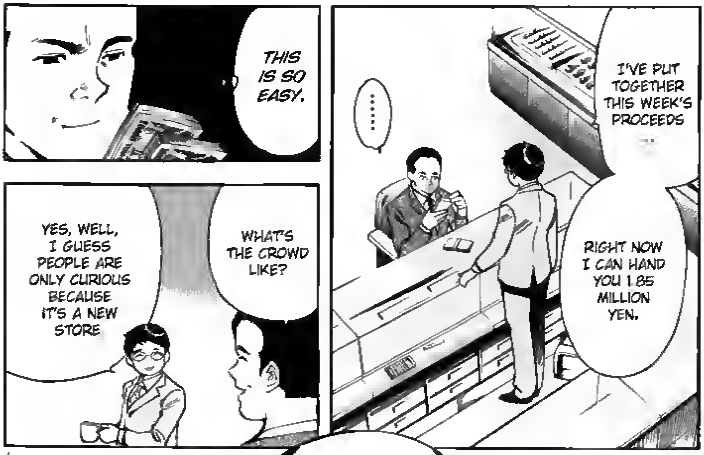
BUSINESS LOOKS PRETTY GOOD.
THAT KID IS DOING BETTER THAN I IMAGINED.


THE SAMPLES I HANDED OVER ARE THERE TOO.

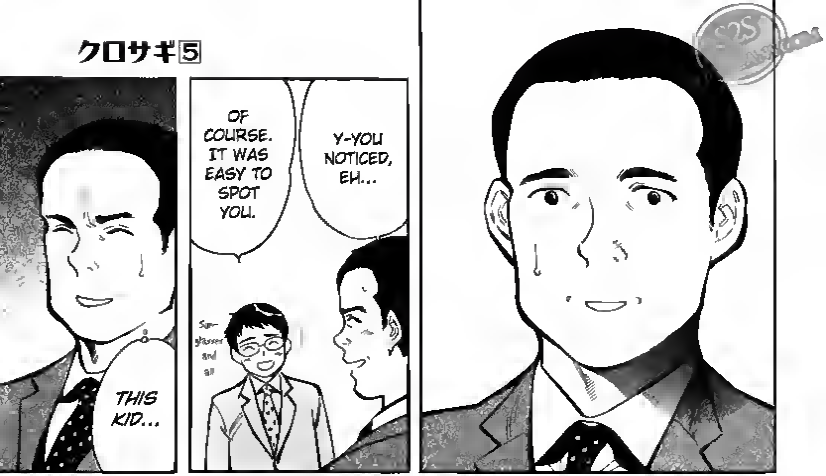
I'M JUST RAKING IN THE CASH...!


FOR EVERY REPLICA I SELL, WORTH 2 TO 3 THOUSAND YEN EACH, I'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS IN PROFIT.
THE CUSTOMERS WILL DECIDE WHETHER TO BUY MERCHANDISE BASED ON THE ORIGINALS I LENT TO FUJISAKI, AND WALK OFF WITH THE FAKES.
COME TO THINK OF IT, THIS IS A JUICY BUSINESS.

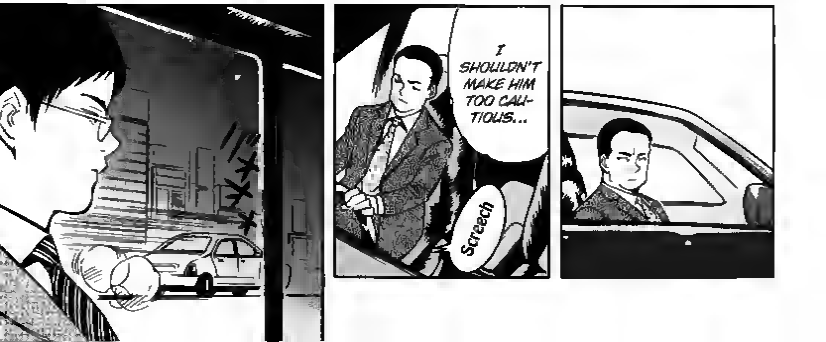



THIS IS SO EASY.
I'VE PUT TOGETHER THIS WEEK'S PROCEEDS
.....
RIGHT NOW I CAN HAND YOU 1.85 MILLION YEN.
WHAT'S THE CROWD LIKE?
YES, WELL, I GUESS PEOPLE ARE ONLY CURIOUS BECAUSE IT'S A NEW STORE

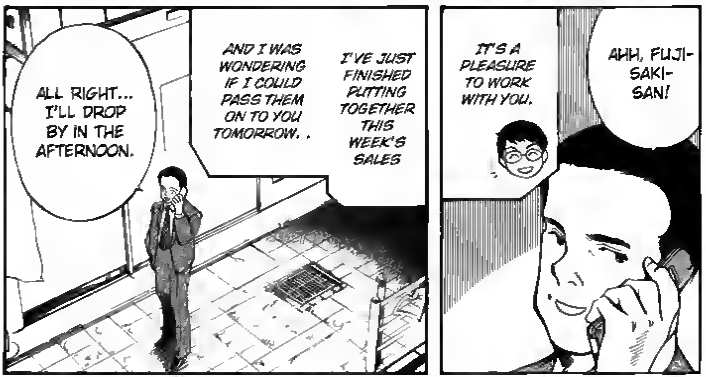
WEREN'T YOU IN FRONT OF THE STORE ALL OF LAST WEEK?
BUT DIDN'T YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT THERE WAS A GOOD CROWD, MURANISHI -SAN?


THIS KID...
OF COURSE. IT WAS EASY TO SPOT YOU.
Y-YOU NOTICED, EH...

Wister
...!


I SHOULDN'T MAKE HIM TOO CAUTIOUS...
Screech

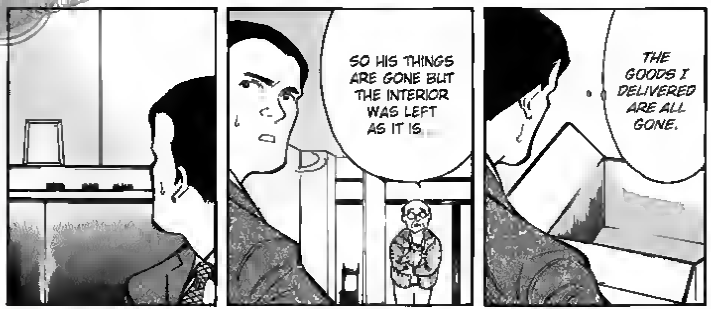
1 WEEK LATER
HELLO, MURANISHI-SAN? THIS IS FUJISAKI.

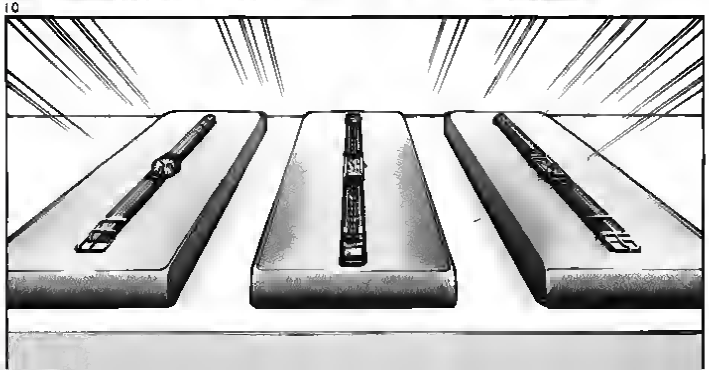

I'VE JUST FINISHED PUTTING TOGETHER THIS WEEK'S SALES
AND I WAS WONDERING IF I COULD PASS THEM ON TO YOU TOMORROW. .
ALL RIGHT... I'LL DROP BY IN THE AFTERNOON.
AHH, FUJISAKI-SAN!
IT'S A PLEASURE TO WORK WITH YOU.

♫
!
WELL...
WHAT'S THE MATTER? DO YOU HAVE BUSINESS WITH THIS STORE?
I'M GLAD THE PERSON I LENT THIS TO MOVED OUT BEFORE THE DEADLINE, BUT HE DIDN'T RESTORE THINGS TO THEIR ORIGINAL STATE...
I'M NOT EVEN SURE WHAT TO DO WITH ALL THE STUFF LEFT INSIDE
CAN'T REACH HIS CELLPHONE EITHER.

I'M TALKING ABOUT THIS RENTAL SPACE.
THE CONTRACT WAS FOR A MONTH...
BEFORE THE DEADLINE... WHAT'S THAT MEAN?
RENTAL SPACE...?!
RENTAL SPACE
LOOK UP THERE.
THAT'S RIGHT, AND I'M THE OWNER.
THIS SPOT IS A RENTAL SPACE ?!
Y-YOU DON'T HAVE TO SHOUT...

THE ONLY THING THAT YOUNG MAN RESTORED WAS THE SIGN.
!?
NO WAY!!
HEY, OPEN THESE SHUTTERS!!
!?
I SIGNED A CONTRACT WITH THAT MAN!
HURRY UP!!
DAMN.. DID THAT KID PLAN
TO RUN OFF WITH THE WATCHES FROM THE START..!
RENTAL
ガラガラ


SO HIS THINGS ARE GONE BUT THE INTERIOR WAS LEFT AS IT IS.
THE GOODS I DELIVERED ARE ALL GONE.



THAT MORON! HOW STUPID OF HIM TO LEAVE THESE BEHIND!!
HA HA HA HA HA ...!!
!?
.....!!
IF I USE BRAND-NEW PRODUCTS TO PUT ON DISPLAY, WON'T THEY BE CONSIDERED "USED"?
I BET HE LEFT THE SAMPLES BECAUSE THEY'RE NOT AS VALUABLE
HE REALLY IS A FOOL TO HAVE RUN OFF WITH THE FAKES I GAVE HIM, WHILE LEAVING THE ORIGINALS BEHIND!
IT'S NOT THE SAME AS THOSE FAKES I BROUGHT.
THERE'S NO DOUBT, THIS IS AN ORIGINAL.

PHEW— THAT REALLY SCARED ME.
I NEVER EXPECTED THAT THE KID WAS TRYING TO CHEAT ME.
I HAVE THE CONTRACTS WITH ME, SO I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND IF I TAKE THESE SAMPLES.
YEAH, GO AHEAD.
I'M JUST HAPPY THESE 12 WATCHES ARE SAFE.
HE CAN HAVE ALL THE REPLICAS HE WANTS. AFTER ALL, I'VE RECEIVED OVER TEN TIMES THEIR VALUE IN CASH.
UNFORTUNATELY FOR HIM, I'M NOT ONE TO FALL FOR SUCH A TRAP.
I GUESS HUMANS ARE BEST SUITED FOR THEIR MAIN JOB. .
LUXURY WATCH SALES EXHIBITION

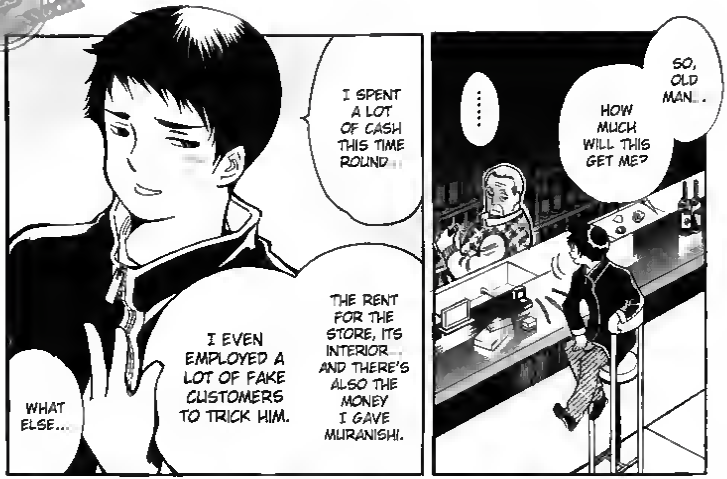
YES, MY APOLOGIES. I'M MURAOKA I'M IN CHARGE OF OUTSIDE SALES.
OH... YOU'RE FROM THE BOUTIQUE "HARVESTS"?
MA'AM... DID YOU FIND WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR AT THE EXHIBITION?
I HAPPEN TO HAVE A MARDIN IN STOCK.
MA'AM, JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME.
IS THAT SO.
I WAS LOOKING FOR A MARDIN GMT... BUT THEY HAD ALREADY RUN OUT.
AT THE END OF THE DAY... THE WORK I'M USED TO IS THE MOST RELIABLE.
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I WAS AT A LOSS SINCE ONE OF OUR REGULAR CUSTOMERS CANCELLED THE ORDER.
WAH! YOU KNOW, I'VE ALWAYS WANTED ONE OF THESE!

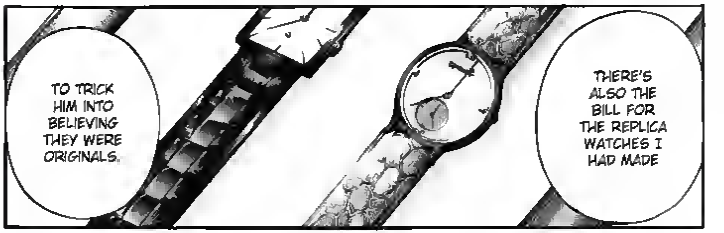
質か
MA'AM... IF YOU'RE CONCERNED, WE CAN GET AN APPRAISAL FROM A THIRD PARTY.
AN APPRAISAL? SURE! A GUARANTEE WOULD REALLY COMFORT ME!
I'M SORRY, BUT WE CAN'T ACCEPT THIS.
HUH

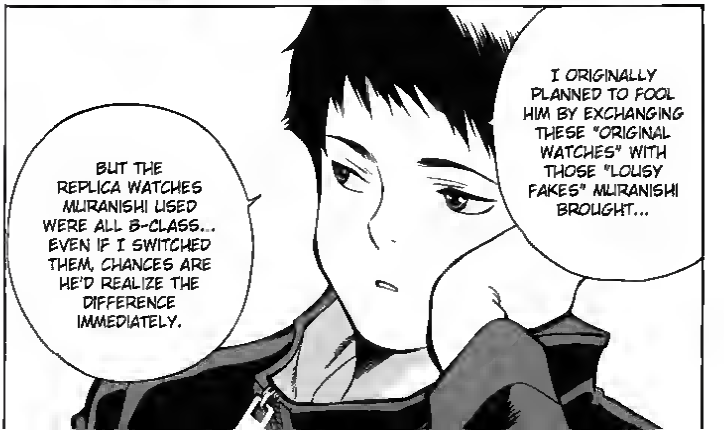
YOU'RE IN THE BUSINESS, AREN'T YOU? I BET YOU DIDN'T GET THIS FROM A LEGAL ROUTE.
AS AN S-RANK REPLICA, IT MAY BE WELL MADE, BUT I'M SURE IT'S NOT AN ORIGINAL.
IM-IMPOS-SIBLE... THERE'S NO WAY!!
O-OF COURSE NOT.
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?! DID YOU TRY TO SELL ME A FAKE FOR 600 THOUSAND?!
CALL THE POLICE!!

IT'S CAUSING A GREAT FUSS FOR THE SWINDLER, ISN'T IT?
SNACK
SO BY NOW ...
I'M PRETTY SURE OF IT....
I SEE
SERVES HIM RIGHT.
ALL 12 WATCHES YOU TOOK FROM HIM...
EVERY ONE OF THEM IS 100% GENUINE.

The movement of the second hand is Umm...
BUT AFTER I SHOWED YOU A FEW TIMES, YOU GOT THE HANG OF IT, DIDN'T YOU?
SURE, AT FIRST YOU WERE TERRIBLE.
SERIOUSLY? THANK GOODNESS ...HONESTLY, I DON'T HAVE MUCH CONFIDENCE IN WATCHES
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, THE KNOWLEDGE OF SPOTTING REPLICAS IS A TRADE SECRET.
THE ONLY REASON I TAUGHT YOU THAT WAS TO GET BACK AT THAT SWINDLER WHO CAUSED THE CUSTOMER TO SUE ME...
DON'T TEACH IT TO ANYONE ELSE
BY THE WAY —IF YOU CAN'T FIND A PLACE TO DISPOSE OF THE GOODS, FEEL FREE TO VISIT OUR STORE.


I SPENT A LOT OF CASH THIS TIME ROUND...
THE RENT FOR THE STORE, ITS INTERIOR... AND THERE'S ALSO THE MONEY I GAVE MURANISHI.
I EVEN EMPLOYED A LOT OF FAKE CUSTOMERS TO TRICK HIM.
WHAT ELSE...
SO, OLD MAN...
HOW MUCH WILL THIS GET ME?
.....


TO TRICK HIM INTO BELIEVING THEY WERE ORIGINALS.
THERE'S ALSO THE BILL FOR THE REPLICA WATCHES I HAD MADE


I ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO FOOL HIM BY EXCHANGING THESE "ORIGINAL WATCHES" WITH THOSE "LOUSY FAKES" MURANISHI BROUGHT...
BUT THE REPLICA WATCHES MURANISHI USED WERE ALL B-CLASS... EVEN IF I SWITCHED THEM, CHANCES ARE HE'D REALIZE THE DIFFERENCE IMMEDIATELY.

EVEN WELL-MADE REPLICAS FETCH A GOOD PRICE.
DON'T EXPECT TO GET YOUR MONEY BACK.. ALTHOUGH THEY'RE ORIGINALS, THEY'RE STILL SECOND-HAND.
"A WELL-MADE REPLICA", EH?
.....
THE WORLD IS FILLED WITH PHONY PEOPLE AND MACHINES
THAT'S WHY EVEN YOU CAN MAKE A LIVING.
I GUESS... I MAY NOT BE GOOD AT SPOTTING PHONY BRANDS, BUT I'M AN EXPERT AT SPOTTING PHONY PEOPLE.
IN THE FIRST PLACE

IT'S ALL THANKS TO THOSE PHONIES THAT I'M HERE, DEVOURING THEM...
SO YOU COULD SAY THAT DEVOURING PHONIES IS MY WAY OF THANKING THEM.

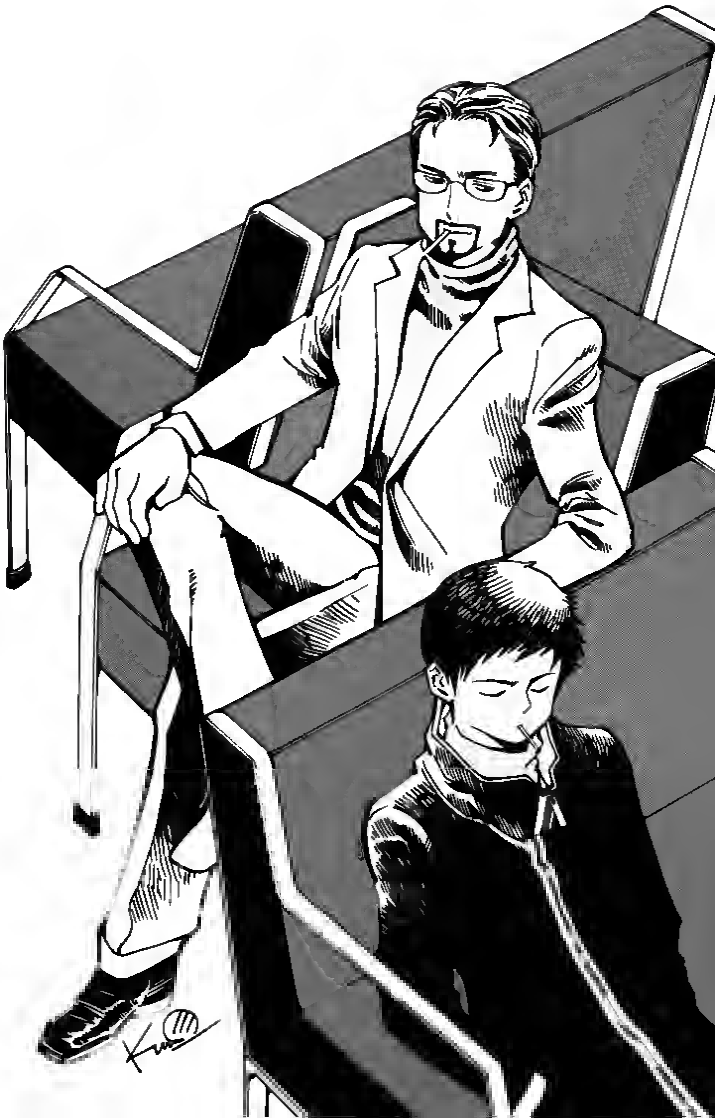


ILLUSTRATION STAFF

Sasahara Yumiko

Haga Kimiko

Sugisaki Eiri

ILLUSTRATION HELP

Takagi Katsuhiko

Let's see... Wheat flour and 1 cup of yogurt
Mix some olive oil into the yogurt and add baking powder into the flour
Then bake in the oven at 120 degrees for 15 minutes...
Whip Whip
Cooking Snacks For CATS
...
Slurp
Munch Munch

Kurosagi (the black swindler)

Written by Takeshi Natsuhara, Illustrated by Kuromaru

KUROSAGI CHAPTER 54

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